VISIT…

LANZAROTE
Caliente.com

中國
画报

A Window to the Nation A Welcome to the World

CHINA PICTORIAL

VOL.751

JANUARY 2011

Chilly Thrills

Cancun: For the Common Good

Heavenly Depths

ISSN 0009-4420

邮发代号2-903 CN11-1429/Z
国内零售价：10元

USA $5.10
Europe €5.20
UK £3.20
Canada $7.80
Australia $9.10
Turkey TL. 10.00

www.china-pictorial.com.cn

Immaculate products,
Luxurious lifestyle
Leader in environmental friendly refrigeration products

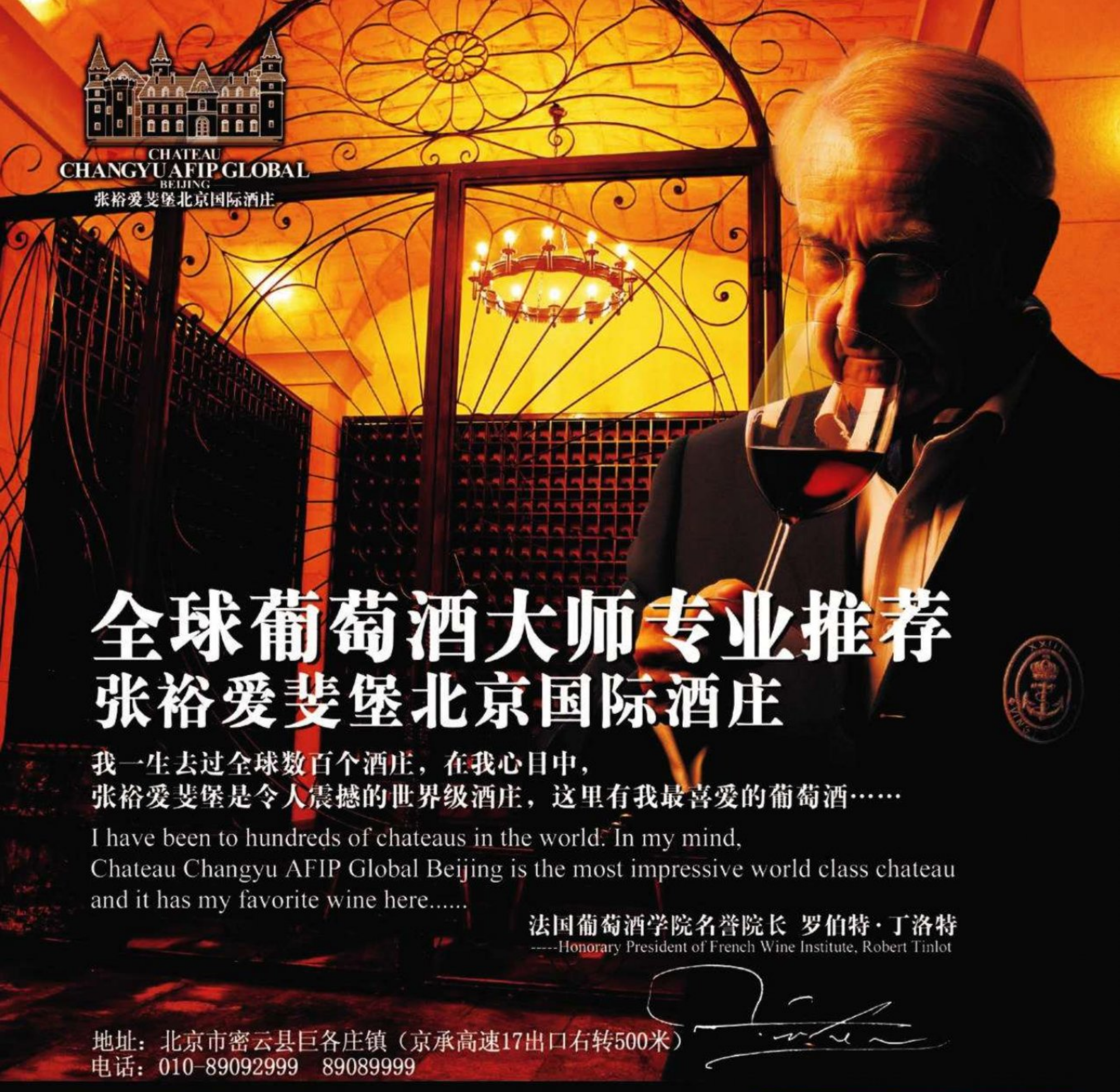
The Moonlight Lotus, a design of class and elegance, new with all-round energy-saving and health technology, is the market favourite with its unique "Chinese Style" appeal. It was awarded the "China Home Appliance Technology Best Innovation Award"

FRESTECH 新飞

中国・新加坡合资企业

A Sino-Singapore JV Co

HENAN XINFEI ELECTRIC CO.,LTD. Add: 370 HongLi Road, XinXiang City, Henan, China Hotline: 400-609-8888 Website: HTTP://www.xinfei.com



CHATEAU
CHANGYU AFIP GLOBAL
BEIJING
张裕爱斐堡北京国际酒庄

全球葡萄酒大师专业推荐
张裕爱斐堡北京国际酒庄

我一生去过全球数百个酒庄，在我心目中，
张裕爱斐堡是令人震撼的世界级酒庄，这里有我最喜爱的葡萄酒……

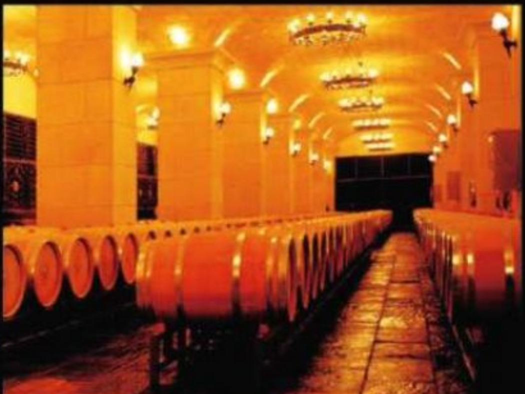
I have been to hundreds of chateaus in the world. In my mind,
Chateau Changyu AFIP Global Beijing is the most impressive world class chateau
and it has my favorite wine here......

法国葡萄酒学院名誉院长 罗伯特·丁洛特
-----Honorary President of French Wine Institute, Robert Tinlot

地址：北京市密云县巨各庄镇（京承高速17出口右转500米）
电话：010-89092999　89089999

张裕爱斐堡北京国际酒庄

建设中的欧洲小镇



酒庄地下酒窖

CHINA PICTORIAL

JANUARY 2011

Administrative Agency: 主管：中国外文出版发行事业局
China International Publishing Group （中国国际出版集团）

Publisher: China Pictorial Publications 主办：人民畫報社

Address: 社址：
33 Chegongzhuang Xilu, 北京市海淀区车公庄西路33号
Haidian, Beijing 100048, China 邮编：100048
Email: cnpictorial@gmail.com

Director and Editor-in-Chief: 社长兼总编辑：
Xu Bu 徐步

Members of the Editorial Board: 编委会：
Xu Bu, Wang Jiyu, Li Xia, 徐步、王继雨、李霞、
Luo Xianyong, Li Lijuan 罗先勇、李莉娟

Managing Editor: Li Xia 执行总编：李霞

English Editor: Wang Yufan 英文定稿：王寓帆
Editorial Consultant: 语言顾问：
Scott Huntsman 苏格

Editorial Department Directors: 编辑部主任：
Tan Xingyu, Wang Yufan 谭星宇、王寓帆

Editors and Translators: 本期发稿编辑、翻译：
Liu Haile, Lu Anqi, Tan Xingyu, 刘海乐、鲁安琪、谭星宇、
Wang Dongmei, Wang Yongqiang, 王冬梅、王永强、
Wang Yufan, Yin Xing, Zhao Yue 王寓帆、殷星、赵月
Operation: Zhu Chunyi 编务：朱春一

Art Supervisor: Jin Xiang 艺术总监：金向
Designers: E-jin, Fang Shuo 设计：依金、房硕

Advertising Department Director: 广告部主任：
Leng Hanbing 冷寒冰
Telephone: 010-88417354 电话：010-88417354
Fax: 010-88417419 传真：010-88417419

Publishing and Distribution Director: 出版发行部主任：
Qiu Mingli 邱明丽
Telephone: 010-68412660 电话：010-68412660
Fax: 010-68715314 传真：010-68715314

Remittance to: 邮购收款人：
Publishing and Distribution Department, China Pictorial
人民画报社出版发行部

Legal Adviser: Yue Cheng 法律顾问：岳成

Printing: C & C Joint Printing Co., Ltd., Beijing
印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司

Overseas Subscriptions and Distribution:
China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian),
35 Chegongzhuang Xilu,
P.o. Box 399, Beijing 100044, China
Telephone: 86-10-68413849
Fax: 86-10-68412166
Email: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn
www.cibtc.com.cn

出版日期 每月1日
国内刊号：CN11-1429/Z
国际刊号：ISSN0009-4420
京海工商广字第0121号

In China, subscriptions are available at any post office.

Subscription and distribution agency in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan:
Hong Kong Peace Book Company, Ltd.
17/F., Paramount Building, 12 Ka Yip Street,
Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Visit *China Pictorial* on the Internet:
www.china-pictorial.com.cn

CON

Snapshot 4

Features

Cancun: For the Common Good 8
- China's Constructive Role 14
- Multiple Voices 16
- Meet Cancun 18

Icy Heat 24
- The Hot Snow Capital 26
- European Mountain Villas 28
- Slopes and Springs 30
- Hot Springs in Ice 32

Nature

Never Underestimate a Butterfly 34

Culture

Traditional Clothing Bloom 38
Coo-coo Art 40
Painting the New Year 44

Society

Good Food Makes Good Neighbors 48
Weddings in the New Era 50

Business

Inheritance & Innovation 54
Mussel Beach 56

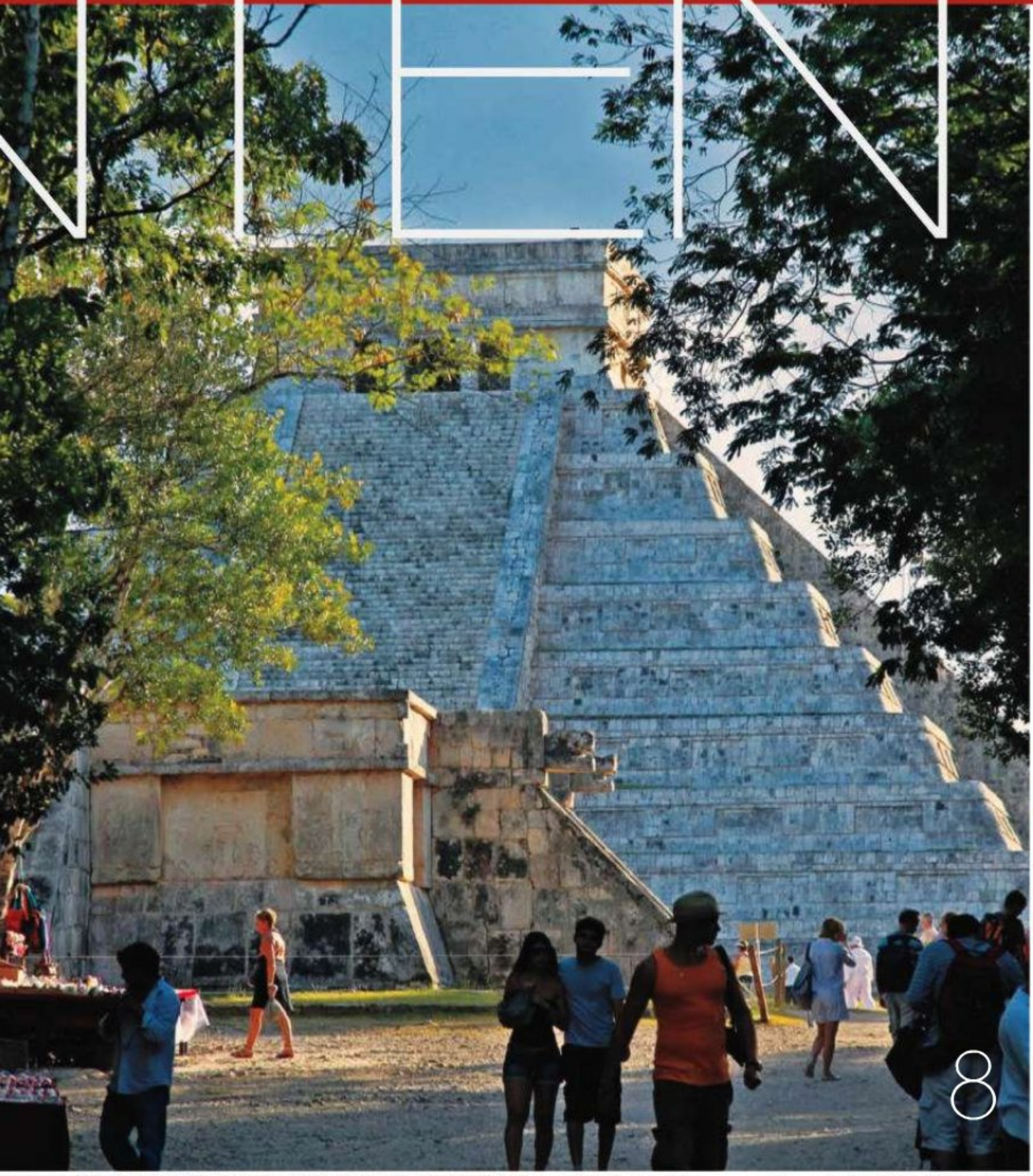
Explore

The Modern Face of an Old Compound 60
Heavenly Depths 62
Rich Religious Heritage of Nujiang Canyon
The Manchurian Conduit 68
Chakpori: Faith Shines in the Dark 72
Alpine Escape 76
Siguniang, the Alps of China

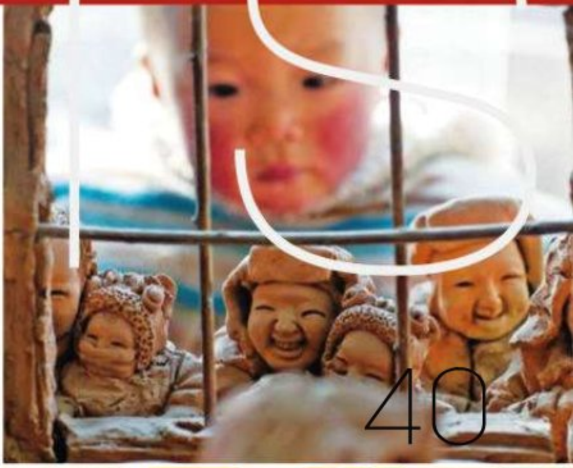
Info 80

Front Cover:
Forbidden City during snow fall. by ***Zi Xu***

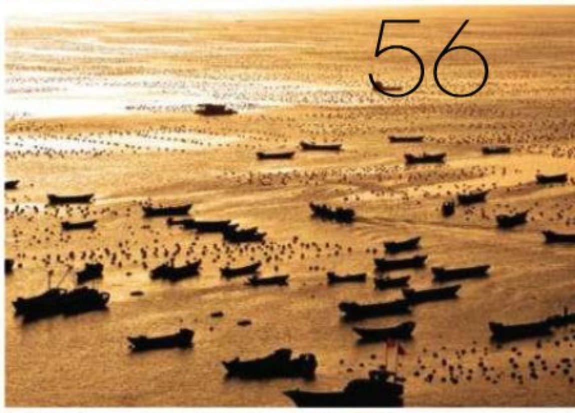
NTENTS


8

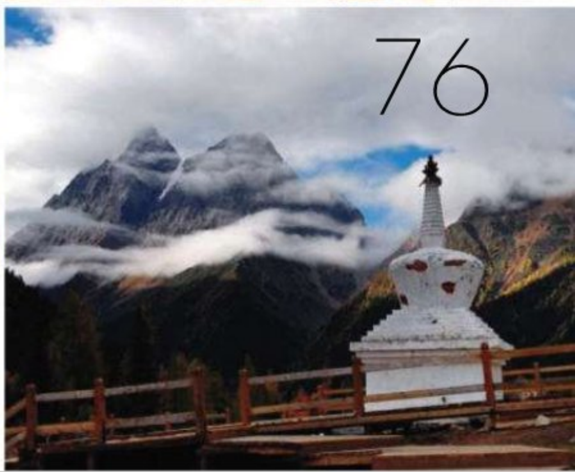
24


40

44


56

62


76

Beijing
Kunming

CHINAPICTORIAL

Travel Destination of the Month

Kicking It in Kunming

Mentioning Kunming in chilly January to those familiar usually warms the heart a bit. Known as the "Spring City" sitting atop the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau, Kunming is a perennial favorite with travelers. Interestingly, locals often complain about the excessive ultraviolet light like a wife nagging her husband. However, upon leaving they realize that they were taking Kunming's superb weather for granted, quickly missing the blue skies and blooming flowers.

Thanks to its warm subtropical climate, lengthy hours of sunlight, ample precipitation, and fertile soil, Kunming is ideal for flora cultivation. A plethora of flowers can be found throughout the city at any time of year, decorating its parks, gardens, fields, hills, and houses. Its clear air provides high visibility, and coupled with the lush greenness, Kunming is an ideal place to golf. Several high-end golft courses can be found within a 50 kilometer radius from downtown.

Residents do rave about Kunming's mild and undisturbed temperament. The local accent, like the city, is simple and slow. On one of the many sunny days, when business is slow, shopkeepers' lunch breaks can last until 4:00 p.m. A famous local dish is rice noodles served in a pot, but unfamiliar visitors may confuse it with nationally popular hot pot, and vendors will playfully tease them. That's how Kunming people treat their friends.

Kunming is famous for its flowers. **IC**

Daguan Park, Kunming. **IC**

Dongpo Festival

Last December, Danzhou City of western Hainan Province hosted the 2010 Dongpo Festival. Su Dongpo (1037-1101), a literary giant of the Song Dynasty, was exiled to Danzhou for three years. During his tenure there, he penned numerous poems while introducing Central Plains culture to the island city.

Along with Danzhou, Huizhou in Guangdong Province and Huanggang in Hubei Province – three cities with close ties to Su's life – take turns hosting the festival.

12,000 Overseas Scholarships

According to the Ministry of Education, the Chinese government will award scholarships for 12,000 Chinese students studying abroad in 2011 – 6,000 to postgraduates and 6,000 to researchers and scholars.

Key disciplines for scholarships include manufacturing, information, biotechnology, new materials, aviation, education, finance and accounting, and several others.

Helicopter Tourism

Huaxi Village of Jiangyin in east China's Jiangsu Province was dubbed the "number one village in China." Annually, it attracts 2 million tourists, both domestic and foreign.

In 2011, the village will launch a tourism program called "Aerial View of Huaxi," using recently-purchased helicopters to further fuel their booming tourism.

Space Theme Park

China is building a science theme park at its newest space center in a move to promote space science to the country's younger generation.

The theme park, covering 120 hectares of Wenchang City in southern Hainan Province, is part of Wenchang Satellite Launch Center. The project is budgeted at 3 billion yuan and is scheduled to be completed by 2013.

China Pavilion Reopens

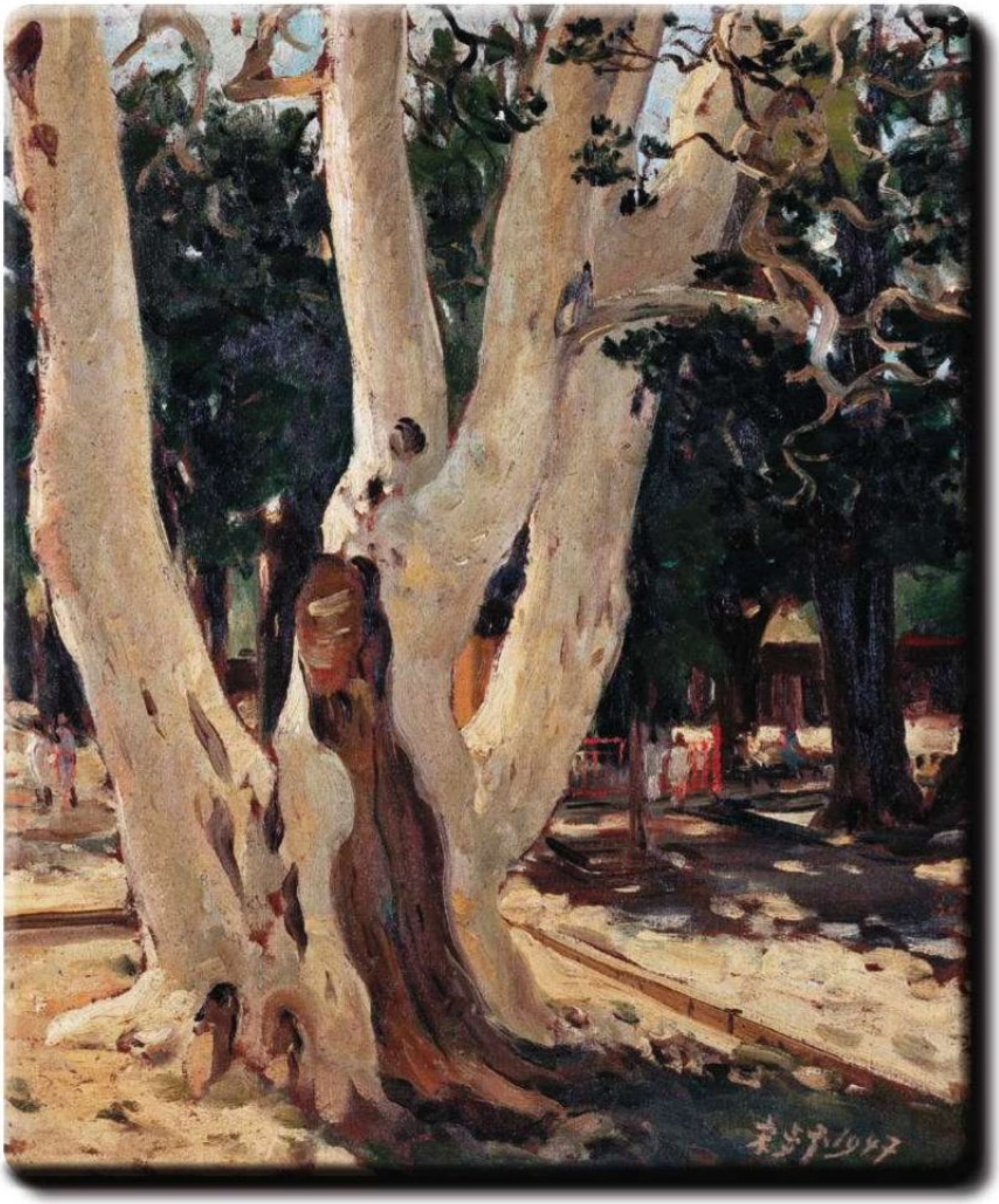
The China Pavilion, the top attraction of Expo 2010 Shanghai, reopened to the public on December 1, 2010, for a period of six months.

A new exhibition was added in the structure's waiting area, helping visitors learn how the building was constructed. Although it was open for 13 hours a day and received 10 million visitors during the Expo, the majority of the 73 million Expo attendees didn't have a chance to visit the pavilion due to unprecedented crowds.

Song Buyun Exhibition

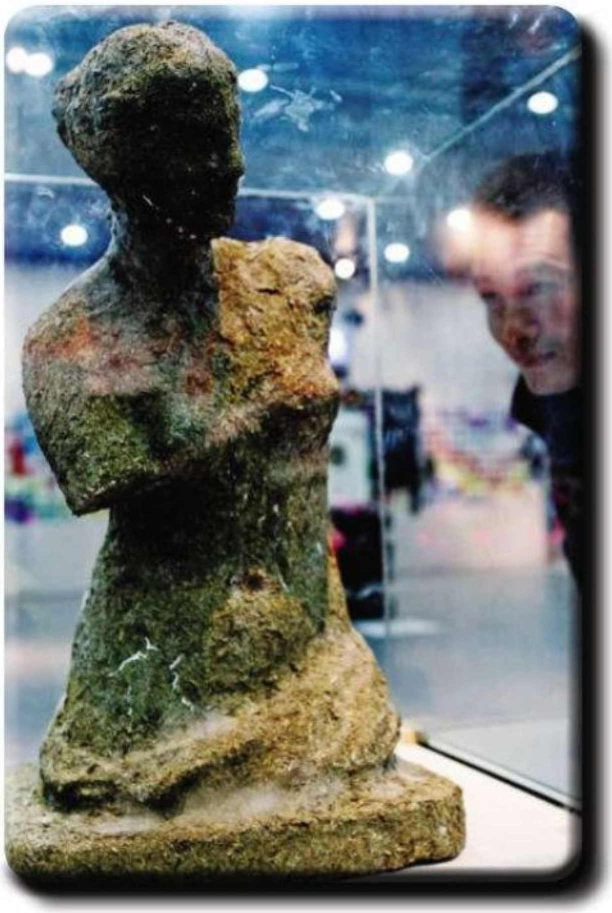
"The Sky Is High and Clear – Review Exhibition of Song Buyun" was held recently at National Art Museum of China to celebrate the 100th birthday of the artist. The exhibition showcased Song's achievements over several periods during his 70 years in the art world.

Song (1910-1992), born in Weifang City, Shandong Province, was a prominent artist, art educator, and activist. His influence in Chinese painting circles remains profound to this day.



White Bark Pine, *an oil painting by Song Buyun.*

A robot delivers beverages. ***IC***



Replica of the Venus de Milo made from panda excrement. ***IC***

Robotic Dining

A robot restaurant is open for a trial run in Jinan, the capital of Shandong Province, arousing curiosity from near and far.

The restaurant features a hot pot buffet, and the 500-square-meter eatery can currently seat nearly 100 diners at a time.

Along with two robotic hostesses at front door, six robotic waiters provide service for customers – two serve drinks, two take orders from small tables and two serve the larger tables.

Venus Replica

A 24-inch-high replica of the Venus de Milo, sculpted from giant panda dung, recently sold for 300,000 yuan to a prominent Swiss art collector.

Zhu Cheng, a Chinese sculptor, created the statue with the help of nine 11-year-old art students in the southwest city of Chengdu, home of a giant panda breeding center.

Panda dung is considered to have a relatively mild smell due to the animal's all-bamboo diet, and items crafted from it have been sold at the gift shop of the Chengdu Research Center for Giant Panda Breeding since 2007.

Beijing Impressions

A photo exhibition titled "Impressions of Beijing – World Photographers Focusing on Beijing" was recently held in the capital. Out of over 100,000 submitted pictures, 70 photos taken by foreigners were chosen for display, documenting Beijing's history, culture, residents, and city life.

The exhibition was divided into three sections: the ancient capital, international city, and Beijing culture. Selected photos provided stunning images of the city's historical sites such as the Great Wall and Forbidden City, new landmarks such as the Bird's Nest and Water Cube, bustling business centers, and traditional Beijing culture such as acrobatics and Peking Opera. Also, images depicting ordinary people's lives provided an essential element of the exhibition.

"印象北京-外国摄影师拍北京"

The opening ceremony of the photo exhibition. by Tan Xingyu

Avian Winter Home

As winter falls, the "Sunlit City" of Lhasa becomes the winter home for Tibetan migratory birds. In recent years, some migratory birds that had become rare to Tibet are being seen in the city once again.

This winter, more residents and visitors have been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the distinguished guests. Due to an improving environment, tens of thousands of migratory birds are flying to the Lhasa River wetland to spend their winter days.

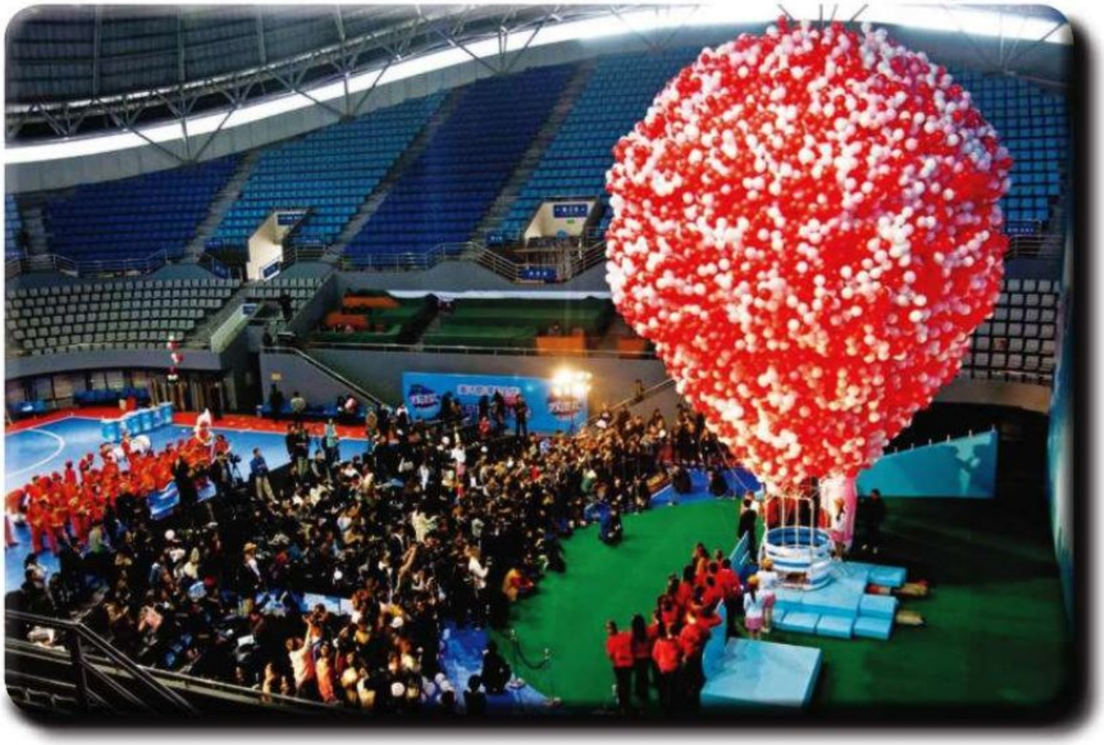
A migratory bird flies above the Lhasa River. by Lhaba Cering / Xinhua

Floating into Record Books

A new record has been set in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province. A massive cluster of 20,000 helium balloons earned a place in the Guinness World Book of Records as world's biggest bunch of helium balloons.

Unlike traditional hot-air balloons, featuring a single large balloon equipped with vents enabling altitude control, cluster balloons are multiple, small, readily available and individually sealed.

Visitors gaze at the world's largest helium balloon cluster in Hangzhou. IC



Cancun: For the C

Text by Liu Haile
Photographs by Wang Lei

> *Perhaps the most concrete result of the Cancun conference is a realization that every party isn't fully satisfied. This shows that compromise is necessary on all fronts, because when doing so, each party will gradually eradicate their differences and eventually promote mutual understanding and common action.*
>
> *– Sha Zukang*
> Under-secretary-general of the United Nations

ommon Good

The pleasant scenery of Cancun helps representatives of the UN climate change conference remember what they are trying to save.

From November 29 to December 11, 2010, negotiators from more than 190 countries gathered in Cancun, one of Mexico's Caribbean coastal cities, hoping to revive climate talks after the futile conference held in Copenhagen in 2009.

Before it started, many doubted whether the Cancun summit would make a difference. Fortunately, although no one described the results as "perfect," positive signs of progress were seen in Cancun.

CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT
COP16
CHINA DAY
中国日

December 6, 2010: The China Day event, sponsored by the Climate Group and co-organized by Chinese NGOs such as Vanke Public Welfare Fund, is unveiled in Cancun.

From Copenhagen to Cancun

The Cancun summit was another important meeting for the international community to advance Bali Roadmap negotiations after the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009, which failed to create a legally binding treaty for years beyond 2012.

However, tackling climate change has long been on the agenda of the international community. Despite considerable disputes between developed and developing countries, they finally agreed to sit around the negotiation table for further discussion. Since the Copenhagen conference, four additional UN climate talks have been held, three in Bonn, Germany, and one in China's Tianjin, showing some progress in climate payments and forestry protection.

The Cancun conference was deemed the penultimate opportunity for the international community to reach a legally binding treaty to replace or extend the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. According to experts, there is reason for optimism for substantial progress in dual-track negotiations of the Bali Roadmap, although achieving a legally binding agreement in Cancun remained seemingly impossible.

Wrestling over Kyoto

No doubt, whether Kyoto Protocol should be extended was the hottest topic for negotiators at the Cancun conference. However, a Japanese statement cast a shadow on the conference from the very beginning. Soon after the Cancun talks started, Japan surprised other countries, declaring it wouldn't extend the Kyoto Protocol – the only legally binding international treaty that requires most of the world's developed countries to make emission cuts.

"Japan will not inscribe its target under the Kyoto Protocol on any condition or under any circumstances," asserted Jun Arima, Deputy Director General for Environmental Affairs at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Following Japan, Russia and Canada also opposed committing beyond 2012.

The strong statement from Japan immediately drew fire from negotiators of other countries. "Its stance on this issue is an obvious obstacle for the Cancun conference unless Japan is willing to compromise a little bit," commented Sergio Serra, Brazilian Ambassador for Cli-

December 10, 2010: Delegates to the Cancun conference talk in secret during a tea break, and no journalists are allowed nearby.

mate Change.

A bloc of Latin American countries issued a stern warning to rich nations that unless they commit to new emission cuts, the UN climate talks in Cancun would fail.

Negotiators from Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ecuador – all members of ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) – said they would not accept refusal by developed countries to extend emission cut targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

Representing all ALBA nations, Venezuelan negotiator Claudia Salerno said that the bloc would not sign any new agreements unless wealthy nations commit to a second period under the Kyoto Protocol.

Despite Japan's opposition, China showed firm support for the landmark Kyoto Protocol.

Xie Zhenhua, head of the Chinese delegation and vice chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, stressed the need to protect the fruits of 20 years of climate negotiations. All parties have made historic contributions under the Kyoto Protocol, he remarked.

Su Wei, chief Chinese climate negotiator, said Japan's statement triggered a strong response from negotiators and would greatly affect the outcome of the Cancun conference. Su considers the Kyoto Protocol a key issue and calls it the basis for international framework to address global warming. "It is one of the crucial issues concerning success of the Cancun conference," he noted.

Wrestling over the Kyoto Protocol was still in full swing when the Cancun talks ended, and the future of the protocol remained in doubt. Fortunately, all parties agreed to ensure "there is no gap between the first and second commitment periods."

NGOs in Action

The Cancun conference offered a stage for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from around the world to fulfill their own roles in fighting against climate change.

Their contributions should not be overlooked, Xie Zhenhua said in Cancun on December 9.

Xie thanked representatives from NGOs, including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Greenpeace and Oxfam International, for their efforts to promote global environmental protection during a meeting at the UN climate change conference. NGOs are carrying forward environmental protection "on behalf of our mother earth," he proclaimed.

During the Cancun conference, on December 8, NGOs from China and the United States reached an agreement to broaden their cooperation by establishing long-term exchange and knowledge-sharing on climate change issues. "We reached the agreement today for long term cooperation by building capacity and working together to better understand both countries in an effort to help mitigate climate change," remarked Barbara Finamore, China Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

1.5°C
SURVIVAL

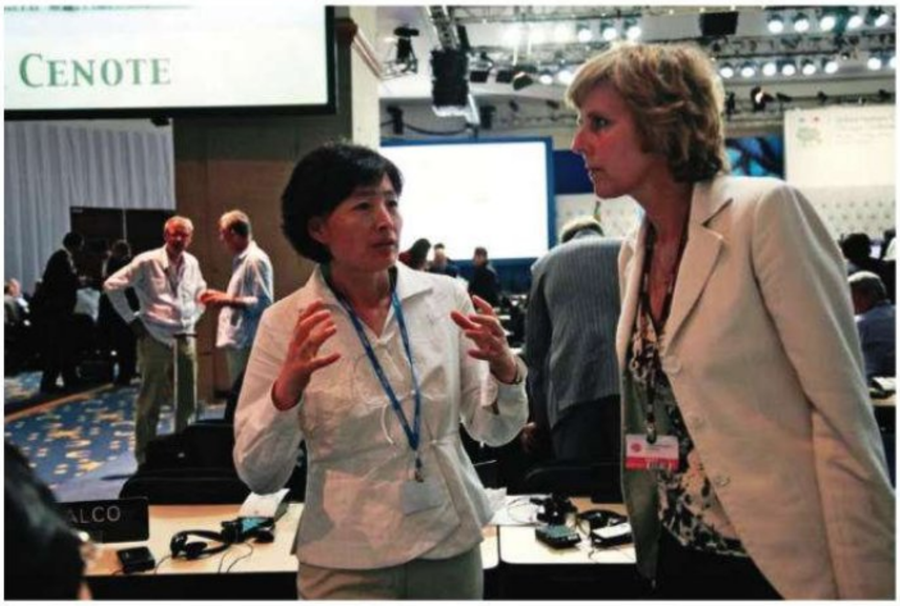
December 10, 2010: Security guards usher away an activist protesting during the Cancun conference, as reporters look on.

Additionally, representatives from both countries established a symbolic US$ 30 fast-start fund in honor of the US$ 30 billion fast-start fund pledged by developed countries in Copenhagen. "We will work together to reduce our carbon footprint and enable both of us to be more effective in our work on climate change," Finamore continued.

As negotiations on greenhouse emission reduction targets heated up inside the Moon Palace, the main venue for the Cancun conference, representatives of NGOs from around the world, such as the WWF and Climate Group, encircled the venue with enthusiastic campaigns to save the earth.

December 10, 2010: The seats of Chinese delegates are left empty as they leave to attend an urgent meeting with other G77 representatives.

GERMANY
GEORGIA
CHINA



Wu Changhua (left), Greater China Director of the Climate Group, explains that a factor in the slow progress of the Cancun climate talks is that all parties weren't expecting much before the meeting.

Exhibitions held at the Cancun Messe.

Wu Changhua, Greater China Director of the Climate Group, said that although NGOs did not participate in the climate negotiations directly, they can serve a role in creating think tanks. "They can also play a role in improving environmental protection awareness and organizing local governments and enterprises to better address climate problems," she added.

China's Green Efforts

Few doubt China's important and active role in the battle against climate change. As one of the largest developing countries in the world, China is now on track towards sustainable, low-carbon and green development.

In November 2009, the Chinese government promised to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by 40-45 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels.

"Achieving these targets will require tremendous long-term efforts," remarked Xie Zhenhua. "China will adopt comprehensive policies to slow down the speed of emission growth, and strive to pass its emission peak as soon as possible."

Regardless of the Cancun outcome, China will keep its promise. According to Xie, the nation realized its emission reduction goal for the past five years ahead of schedule and will reach its energy conservation target on time. Statistics show that from 1850 to 2005, China's cumulative per-capita carbon emissions reached 70 tons, while that number for the United States exceeded 1,100 tons. Now, China's annual per-capita carbon emissions are five tons, compared to 20 tons for the United States.

On December 6, China presented its low-carbon strategies and practices at the China Day event on the sidelines of the Cancun UN climate change conference. During the three-day event with the theme of "Low-carbon Development: China in Action," China showcased its low-carbon development at different levels through practice sharing, documentaries and panel discussions featuring officials, regional and international representatives and green entrepreneurs from China and around the world.

The Climate Group, an international NGO, published a report on China's clean revolution, honoring some Chinese cities' leadership in combating climate change. According to the report, the low-carbon lifestyle had been widely accepted by many Chinese as a symbol of high-quality life years ago. "The event is a good example to help build bridges, which is essential for a green revolution to happen," noted Mark Kenber, deputy CEO of the Climate Group.

Eyeing the Future

In the wee hours of December 11, after nearly two days of round-the-clock negotiations, delegates to the Cancun conference finally wrapped up a package of agreements that advance efforts to cope with climate change and lay foundation for talks in the next conference to take place in Durban, South Africa, at the end of 2011. Although it is still "not a perfect package" as many delegates declared, no one denied that positive steps were taken at various levels on key issues such as adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

"The achievements of the conference are results of parties' efforts and the advantages of the multilateral mechanism, which can promote the negotiation progress," remarked Xie Zhenhua. "After this conference, we have full confidence in the multilateral mechanism. We can move forward in South Africa if we can continue to consolidate and carry on the spirit of unity and coordination formed at the Cancun conference."

An agreement was also reached to establish a fund to support long-term climate-friendly change in developing countries, while bolstering technological cooperation and enhancing the less-fortunate population's ability to adapt to changing climate.

"The UN climate change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, have delivered important progress for a world much in need of it," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked in a statement. "Governments came together for common cause, for the common good, and agreed on a path forward to address the defining challenge of our time."

TIME FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
TIME FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Environment-themed posters at the Cancun Messe.

December 9, 2010: The Mexico Aborigines Association holds an activity in the Cancun Climate Change Village.

At the Cancun Messe, Brazil presents an exhibition aiming to arouse concern about rainforests.

China's Constructive Role in Cancun

— An interview with Xie Zhenhua, head of the Chinese delegation

Xie Zhenhua, head of the Chinese delegation to Cancun.

Text by Tang Shubiao and Du Lu
Photographs by Wang Lei

When the curtain fell on the 2010 Cancun climate change conference on December 11, substantial progress had been made with respect to climate adaptation, technology transfer, financial support, and capacity building in addition to a reaffirmation of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Perhaps the most important achievement of the conference was a rekindling of confidence that international dialogues and multilateralism could provide real results in tackling climate change.

During the Cancun conference, Xie Zhenhua, head of the Chinese delegation, was interviewed by reporters from China International Publishing Group (CIPG) and the local news agency Notimex. During the interview, Xie answered questions concerning issues such as the extension of the Kyoto Protocol and the fast start fund pledged by developed countries at the 2009 Copenhagen conference.

Active China

Xie expressed that all governments should take responsibility to promote international talks aiming to tackle climate change, and that China has played an active role in pushing negotiations forward. "These days, I attend 12 interviews and meetings each day," he remarked. "We've endured lengthy communication to achieve a win-win outcome. Through bilateral negotiations and talks, China endeavors to promote mutual trust and eliminate misunderstandings. For example, there were disputes on the issue of technology transfer. Then, through negotiating with ministers of other countries, we finally reached a consensus."

China showed an active attitude in its communication with other countries, hoping to achieve a satisfying outcome for all at the Cancun conference. "The longer that climate change remains a growing problem, the deeper developing countries will be hurt," Xie noted. "This isn't the result we'd like to see. So, we've done a lot of work to communicate with small island countries and African nations."

In addition, Xie met many NGO representatives. Just before the interview, he spent an hour addressing questions from NGO representatives from around the world.

Moving Forward

Xie declared that the success of the Cancun summit lied in whether all countries could move forward on the basis of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Roadmap, and the Copenhagen Accord. To achieve such a result, representatives of all countries need to make some compromise over the course of negotiations.

However, some principle issues are nonnegotiable. "We must adhere to the Kyoto Protocol," Xie stressed, "and the second commitment period must continue. After the common acknowledgement of these principles, all parties then can compromise to create a mutually beneficial outcome."

Long-Term Financing

As for the fast start fund pledged by developed countries at the Copenhagen summit, Xie explained that it should contain two meanings: "Fast" means that the pledge to establish the US$ 30 billion fund must be honored as quickly as possible, and "start" means that developed countries should start providing support for developing countries to address climate change.

Along with the fast start fund, a successive, long-term financing mechanism should be established, Xie continued. "Currently, a long-term financing team has been organized under the instruction of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which has formulated some suggestions on long-term financing," he added. "We hope that the long-term financing mechanism is established as soon as possible, and that it ensures enough funds as needed to combat climate change."

According to Xie, both the fast start fund and the long-term financing mechanism should be multilaterally funded and operated under the instruction of the Convention of the Parties of the UNFCCC. Meanwhile, there should be a practical mechanism to ensure effective and fair use of the funds.

Xie suggested that the international community establish an executive body with comprehensive representation to oversee the funds. In accordance with the requirements of the UNFCCC, the fast start fund should be provided by developed countries, with public funds being primary and social donations supplementing them.

Developed Responsibility

Xie stressed that the major cause of climate change is unconstrained emissions produced by developed countries during their process of industrialization, so developed countries should be responsible for the damage they caused to the planet during decades past. For this reason, principles such as "common but differentiated responsibilities" and "fairness" should be included in the process of tackling climate change.

According to Xie, energy consumption of developing countries will definitely grow if they pursue economic development, and developing countries should be allowed rational growth in greenhouse gas emissions during their process of industrialization. In fact, this conforms to the spirit of the UNFCCC. "According to the requirements of the UNFCCC, developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions," explained Xie, "and developing countries should, with the financial and technological support from developed countries, take active measures and policies to achieve sustainable development. The Kyoto Protocol and its first commitment period both manifest such a spirit. This is also the reason why we insist on the second commitment period."

China's Green Growth

Though lacking financial and technological support from developed countries, Xie noted, China has taken active action to mitigate climate change. Some criticize China for being the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, but they neglect the fact that China has the world's largest population. In fact, China is ranked between 70th and 80th in terms of per capita emissions.

"Now, China's per capita GDP is about US$ 3,700," Xie declared. "We've done our best to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring our economic growth, hoping to avoid repeating the mistake that developed countries made in their process of industrialization. We've taken measures, such as saving energy, improving energy efficiency, developing renewable energy, planting trees, and increasing forest carbon sinks, to mitigate climate change in all sectors including industry, transportation, architecture, and agriculture."

China takes action not because of pressure from others, but due to its own need for sustainable development. "For China, climate change is a challenge," admitted Xie, "but at the same time, it offers an opportunity for the country to transform its economic growth mode and adjust consumption patterns. China strives to achieve a green economic growth."

December 6, 2010: The Chinese delegation holds a press conference in Cancun.

Voices from Cancun

Text by Huang Yehua
Photographs by Wang Lei and Du Lu

The gradually changing climate is becoming a greater problem like a heavier sword hanging over Damocles' head. To make real progress towards mitigating the situation, efforts are needed from all nations of the world. In Cancun, a *China Pictorial* reporter spoke with several negotiators, entrepreneurs, and NGO representatives who shared their concerns, creating a series of voices from Cancun.

"Some criticize climate negotiations as inefficient. If they are useless, everyone might as well stay home and make a statement rather than sitting around the negotiation table here. However, in doing so, no progress would ever be made. Perhaps the most concrete result of the Cancun conference is a realization that every party isn't fully satisfied. This shows that compromise is necessary on all fronts, because when doing so, each party will gradually eradicate their differences and eventually promote mutual understanding and common action."

– Sha Zukang
Under-secretary-general of the United Nations

CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT
气候变化领
COP16 CHINA
China is
THE CLEAN REVOLU

"I think China's 12th Five-Year Plan sets great goals. To realize goals such as emission reduction, localization will be required, making the roles of cities and enterprises increasingly important."

– Mark Kenber
Deputy CEO of the Climate Group

"As an enterprise that is highly concerned about climate change, we absorb advanced technology and concepts from other countries and put them into action. Every time we attend climate summits, we learn something that is deserving of absorption, pondering, and action. Nowadays, China's private enterprises are playing more active roles on the international stage, and their influence in terms of public welfare projects is even deeper and wider than that of the country's products around the world. It is a remarkable achievement for those Chinese social welfare organizations to develop so fast."

– Feng Lun
Chairman of Vantone Group

"Latin America is one of the world's most threatened regions by climate change, so its people are sincerely willing to work together with those from elsewhere to protect their homeland. As a developing country, Paraguay hopes developed countries will fulfill their pledges of providing financial and technological support to help developing countries with respect to energy conservation and emission reduction."

– *Cesar Balbuena*
Senior Advisor of the Paraguayan Delegation

"The most urgent task of public welfare undertakings is to solve problems that remain unsolved. I think many problems, such as greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, sewage, and garbage, haven't been properly controlled. Such problems shouldn't be included in the price of economic development."

– *Zhang Yue*
President of Broad Group

"Energy conservation and emission reduction require people of all countries to adjust their lifestyles. This is a time-consuming process. On the surface, climate negotiations are about quantified emission targets, but behind that is an urge towards tremendous lifestyle transformation. I care little about how much we can influence some particular issues in climate negotiations, but rather value whether our actions can impact human lifestyles and production methods. In the long term, our participation is meant to express this kind of wish. Only when it serves human interests can a new concept take root and flourish."

COP16
CHINA D
中国日

– *Yang Peng*
President of the Experts Committee of the Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology

CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT

December 6, 2010: The China Day event is unveiled in Cancun.

MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE
BUILDING PRESCRIPTION
MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO
LA RESPUESTA EN EDIFICACIÓN

An exhibition building in Cancun sponsored by a Chinese enterprise.

A slogan exhibited by a Chinese NGO at the Cancun Messe.

拯救气候，我愿尽全力，你呢？
I will act on climate, will you?

Meet Cancun

Text by Wang Lei and Liu Haile
Photographs by Wang Lei

Though a small resort city of Mexico, Cancun was under a global spotlight as it hosted the 2010 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference from November 29 to December 11.

More than 10,000 negotiators, experts, NGO representatives, and journalists transformed the normally relaxed vacation destination into a crowded and bustling international rendezvous. Journalists from China Pictorial were amongst visitors covering the global event taking place in Mexico.

Sunrise in Cancun.

The primary resort zone is located on a long island at the southeast tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Viewed from above, it resembles a gigantic "L" stretching out towards the Caribbean. Three decades ago, Cancun was just a small fishing village with 300 residents. However, after more and more visitors became enchanted by its stunning coastal scenery and mysterious Mayan relics, it quickly grew into a world-renowned tourist resort. Now, more than 2 million tourists visit the city annually.

The word "Cancun" means "vessel at the end of the rainbow" in Mayan, which is a metaphor for happiness. Cancun sees frequent showers during its rainy season which runs from July to October. Residents frequently see rainbows after precipitation, which inspired the city's name.

Blue Sea and White Sands

"No other sea in the world can rival the waters of Cancun," many satisfied visitors have declared.

Indeed, the sea off Cancun's coast is spectacular. The island extends 21 kilometers although it's only 0.4 kilometers wide, so it appears like a snake slithering through the crystal clear seawater. Its white beaches extend 20 kilometers, dotted with Mayan-style pavilions and cottages roofed with palm leaves, supported by black stone columns, adding a tranquil, romantic atmosphere. On sunny days, the seawater shines like a glistening sapphire, and the surface color can shift from sky blue to navy with varying water depths, underwater reefs, and sunshine. Luckier visitors have reported dolphins jumping in the sea.

Cancun's beaches feature soft, white sand. Even in the scorching sun, it's pleasantly cool to walk barefoot on the beach. This is because the sand is actually formed with eroded coral. The porous coral is composed of adiabatic material that resists heat.

Many of the most famous luxury hotel names can

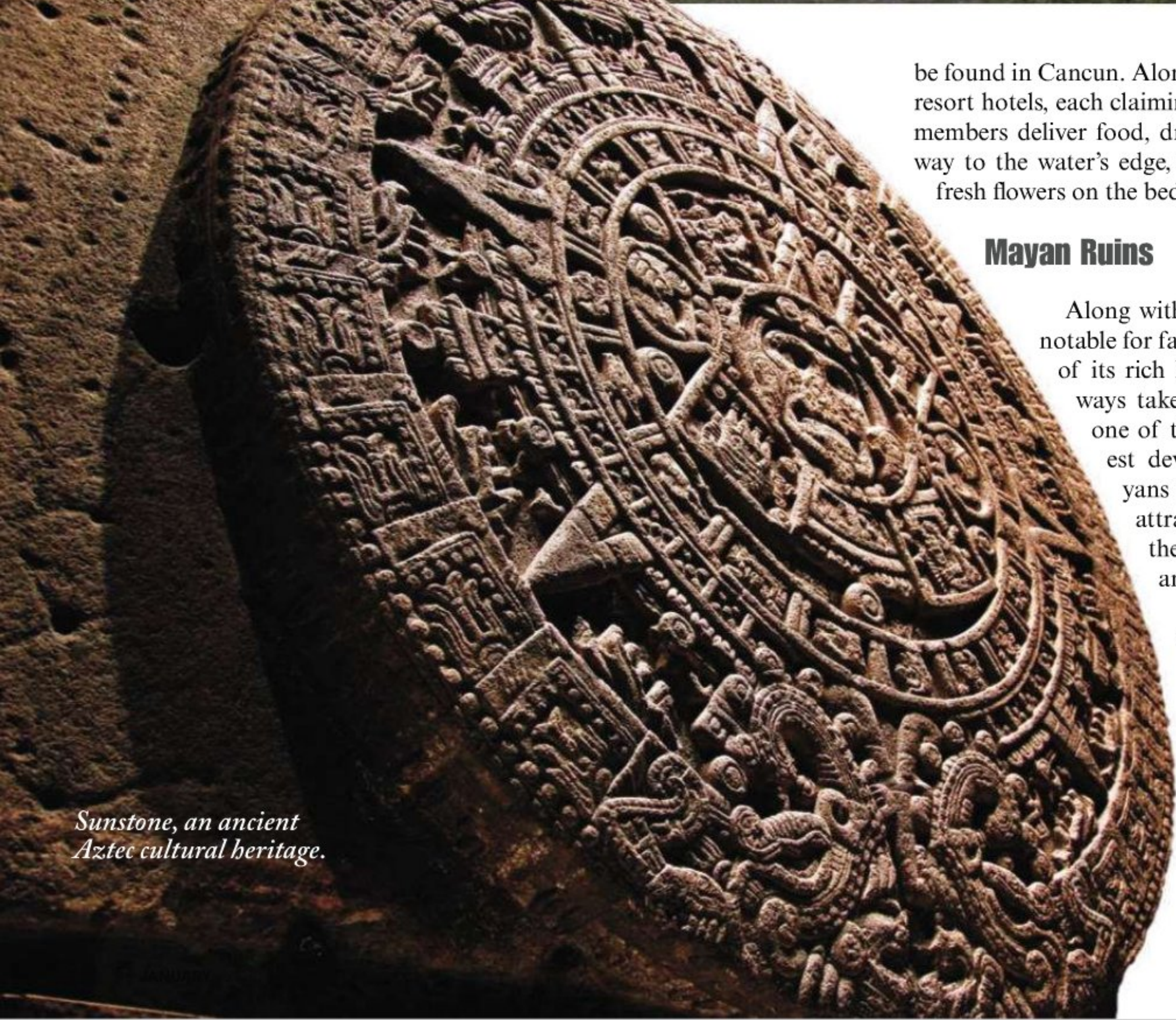
A Mayan pyramid in Chichen Itza.

be found in Cancun. Along the city's coast are nearly 100 resort hotels, each claiming a piece of beach. Hotel staff members deliver food, drinks and other services all the way to the water's edge, and maids leave a bouquet of fresh flowers on the bed after cleaning the room.

Mayan Ruins

Along with its coastal scenery, Cancun is notable for fascinating Mayan relics. Because of its rich Mayan history, Mexico has always taken pride in being homeland to one of the Western Hemisphere's earliest developed civilizations. The Mayans left behind numerous historic attractions near Cancun, of which the most famous are Chichen Itza and Tulum.

Known as the "lost civilization," the Maya were developing their own culture as early as the 3rd century B.C., and reached their zenith in the 8th century. Archeologists assert that the civilization began to quickly decline around the 10th century, leaving behind



Sunstone, an ancient Aztec cultural heritage.

Mayan and Aztec relics housed in the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.

many inexplicable mysteries. However, the intrigue surrounding the Mayan disappearance only makes their ruins more attractive to potential visitors.

Recently proclaimed one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Chichen Itza still retains hundreds of structures that can be traced back to the 5th century. For this reason, it is considered the best-preserved ancient Mayan city in Mexico. At the center of Chichen Itza is the Temple of Kukulkan, a Mayan pyramid often referred to as "El Castillo" by locals. With a height of 23 meters, the pyramid features stairways up each of the four sides

Cancun abounds in caves and underground rivers.

Lifeguards at a Cancun beach.

A street of Cancun.

reaching a temple on top. In total, its stairways have exactly 365 steps, symbolizing a year's 365 days. Historical records also show that the Mayan calendar divides the year into 365 days.

One of the other most popular Mayan attractions in Mexico, Tulum is about 150 kilometers south of Cancun. Built atop a seaside cliff, the ancient city is embraced by walls in three directions. In fact, the word "Tulum" means "wall" in Mayan. However, its original residents used to call it "Sama," literally the "city of dawn." Today, remaining structures in Tulum are several deteriorating Mayan temples made of coral. Coral can easily be eroded by wind and rain, so the temples appear on the verge of collapse, leaving little room for visitors to imagine their original glory.

In one of Tulum's temples, archeologists unearthed a stone plate with Mayan hieroglyphs dating back to 564, which is now on display at the British Museum. The Maya developed around 800 hieroglyphic symbols, which could be used to communicate all kinds of things and ideas. In their time, the Maya used the characters to record history on stone, wood, paper, and even pottery. Research reveals that the Maya usually carved their chronicles on stone columns, many of which can still be found in tropical rainforests on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Nowadays, most residents around Tulum make a living in the tourism industry. Some sell souvenirs, some drive tour buses, and others serve as travel guides. Some believe that most of their blood is still Mayan, and locals could possibly appear almost identical to their ancestors.

A paradise formed by a conglomeration of white sands, the Caribbean, palm trees and Mayan ruins, Cancun enchanted everyone who attended the UN climate change talks.

Cancun is noted for blue seawater and white sands.

Snow-covered Suzhou Street in the Summer Palace. by Fang Shuo

Icy Heat

Text by Tan Xingyu

The falling flakes of snow often serve as a subtle reminder of the countdown of the final moments of the year. After experiencing spring rains, summer heat, and the autumn harvest, many have no trouble enjoying the icy days of winter. The seasonal cycle repeats itself year after year, and the particularly adventurous usually seek thrills in the snow-white chills, indulging in uniquely winter outdoor activities.

Along with the development of modern tourism, increasing numbers of people are no longer content to count the cold hours at home, dreaming of pleasant spring days. Rather, they choose to brave the outdoors to find enlightening experiences between the longest nights of the year. Of the available winter activities, ice and snow sports starkly contrast leisurely hot springs visits, but combining the opposites can create an irresistible attraction. In this issue, *China Pictorial* recommends several destinations where sleek white scenery complements gurgling hot springs, creating a tasty treat that makes winter months infinitely more attractive.

Magnificent Forbidden City. by Zi Xu

The Hot Snow Capital

It seems Beijing is void of tourist peak and off seasons, for the city is rarely at a lack of tourists. However, its winters, especially after snowfall, offer a particular flavor. Many newer Beijing residents admit that their love affair with the city began after witnessing their first snowfall. The snow makes everything a bit more tranquil, providing an opportunity to feel the heart of the city.

Snowy Beijing has a distinctive atmosphere. You may hear the touting of an old knife grinder or bump into a young man selling sugarcoated haw sticks in *hutong*s, which deliver an unparalleled feeling of old Beijing. In winter, many scenic spots offer drastically different allure than in other seasons.

Native Beijing residents believe winter is the best time to visit the Forbidden City, especially in the early afternoon after snowfall. The relative scarcity of tourists better embodies the solemnity and dignity of the palace which served as home to 24 emperors. When surrounded by crowds of tourists under the scorching sun, visitors often quickly lose appetites for history and culture. Many movies and TV series related to Beijing choose to shoot in the Forbidden City after snowfall, in an effort to restore the aura of the time-honored structure. Thus, if it snows while you visit Beijing, you should rush to the Forbidden

A hutong *in snow. CFP*

City to savor China's heavy history in the vast square of the royal family.

Although its name is Summer Palace, the well-preserved imperial garden remains picturesque in winter. The Summer Palace offers a snowy scene as gorgeous as that of West Lake, which is well-known throughout China, and its beauty is not restricted to one structure, but rather composed by the entire poetic atmosphere. When Longevity Hill is covered by snow and Kunming Lake freezes, tourists can walk down the same long corridor where princesses and princes passed long ago.

Along with Forbidden City and Summer Palace, the Great Wall is another must-visit with Beijing snow. The popular Badaling and Mutianyu sections offer substantially magnificent views. However, for more ambitious travelers, the beautifully preserved Gubeikou and Jiankou sections can be even more stunning. When snow and frost cover the bricks, some rave about the nostalgic feeling. However, climbing to the steep stretches at Gubeikou and Jiankou is more difficult in winter. Thus, a guide is still necessary for those with less experience or little hiking equipment.

Perhaps one reason Beijing developed as the ancient capital is its abundant geothermal resources. As early as 1,500 years ago, the city began to utilize geothermal resources and until 1949, there were four natural hot springs in Beijing. On the outskirts of the city, tourists can find many hot spring resorts for relaxation. Visitors can rent a courtyard at a resort to enjoy the hot water. Accompanied by light music, the warmth of the spring during a cold winter breeze makes worries quickly melt away.

Relaxing in a hot spring. CFP

Tips

Beijing's hot spring resorts are found around the outskirts. Chunhuiyuan Hot Spring Resort, at the Gaoliying Town of Shunyi District, features a hotel spa with the hot spring water piped into huge bathtubs in guest rooms and is especially popular amongst those seeking more privacy.

Jiuhua Shanzhuang, at Xiaotangshan of Changping District, provides over 20 hot spring pools with different functionality, including mud baths and medicinal stone steam baths, among others.

A Beijing street after a snowfall. by Wan Quan

European Mountain Villas

The first beam shining after snow. CFP

Located at the north end of Jiangxi Province, Lushan Mountain sits just south of Jiujiang County and west of Xingzi County. While the scenic spot covers a total area of 302 square kilometers, the mountain itself fills up 282 square kilometers. Because of its mild summer climate, Lushan Mountain is a popular summer resort for tourists from across the country. However, in recent years, more visitors began arriving in winter, finding the colder mountain equally charming, if not more so.

Usually, snow blankets the mountain in early December and stays until late March, with the temperatures ranging between negative eight and five degrees Celsius (18-41 degrees F). The snowy scene in Lushan is not quite as magnificent as those in northern China, but rather delicate. Every winter, cold and warm currents converge high in the mountains and deep in the valleys, turning vapor droplets into needle-shaped ice. Since such a scene is more common in the North, Lushan attracts many southern tourists who rarely have a chance to witness the phenomenon.

Two places should not be missed during a winter visit to Lushan: Meilu Villa and a mountain cinema that screens *Romance on Lushan Mountain*. Scattered around the mountain are 1,000 villas in architectural styles of more than 20 countries, documenting the ups and downs of modern Chinese history. Compared with their counterparts in other parts of China, Lushan's villas possess two distinctive features. First, they feature thick walls made of rocks from the mountain, which insulate them well from the cold. Secondly, fireplaces, rarely found in China, are in almost every villa. Among the beautiful structures, the most famous is known as "Meilu," the only villa to have hosted top leaders of both CPC (Communist Party of China) and Kuomintang. When Soong Mei-ling, wife of Chiang Kai-shek, then leader of the central government, received the villa as a gift from her British friend, she never imagined the historical legacy the typical British architecture would become. Meilu is tranquil after snowfall, with white covering its courtyard and ice draping the towering trees in front.

Romance on Lushan Mountain, a classic film, was a big hit in China when it premiered at the mountain theater on July 12, 1980. It features an innocent peck on the cheek, which seems pedestrian to modern filmgoers, but the scene was groundbreaking for the first kiss featured in a Chinese mainland movie made after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. To date, the movie has played over 18,000 times at the cinema, the longest first-run of a film in any single cinema according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The theater, constructed in 1897, was previously a Christian union church. Historical notables such as Chiang Kai-shek, Soong Mei-ling, and Leighton Stuart attended religious service there. After 1949, it was transformed into a cinema.

If you visit Lushan for the snow, don't miss the scene at night. At dusk, the peaks glow gorgeously and the fresh mountain air is exhilarating. Under the moon, lights from villas shine through trees, making the scene not unlike a stroll through a small European village.

Climbing a mountain can be a daunting task, so after doing so, soaking in mountain hot springs sounds even more appealing. Xingzi County, at the foot of Lushan Mountain, is well-known for its hot springs. The recorded history of Lushan Mountain's springs can be traced back to the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420). With temperatures from 68 to 72 degrees Celsius (154-162 degrees F) year round, hot springs in Lushan contain 20 minerals and microelements that can enhance health. According to *Compendium of Materia Medica*, a classic medical work by Li Shizhen of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), hot springs in Lushan produce "magic water" able to treat some diseases and bolster health. With resorts erected on the sides of the mountain, people can enjoy fantastic views while soaking in the water.

Lushan in snow. CFP

Gifted with abundant hot spring resources, Lushan attracts many tourists from nearby cities seeking relaxation. CFP

Due to the chilly weather, Lushan is less visited in winter. However, long ago, men of letters described Lushan as "like a jade in winter," evidencing that back then, people appreciated the mountain's crystal, pure, and poetic snow.

Tips

Located in Wenquan Town of Xingzi County, Longwan Hot Spring Resort features big multi-functional halls and several deluxe conference rooms with full facilities. To enhance the functionality of its hot spring therapy, a variety of Chinese herbs, such as angelica, ginseng, privet, and mint, are added into the water.

Warm relaxation on a chilly winter day.

Slopes and Springs

For centuries, hot springs have served mankind in a variety of ways, providing a perfect leisure activity even before the dawn of technology. While the Native Americans were taking advantage of hot springs in what is now Yellowstone National Park, on the other side of the world, the Chinese were using hot springs to treat diseases and enhance health, dubbing them "divine" or "holy" water.

Liaoyang, in China's northeastern province of Liaoning, is blessed with abundant geothermal resources. A long-circulated tale holds that during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when an expedition headed by Emperor Taizong passed by, many accompanying soldiers were suffering from a variety of maladies due to the long trek. When they noticed a hot spring pool, the travelers immediately jumped into the rare warmth. To their surprise, many soldiers were relieved of much of their pain soon after immersion. So, the water was considered "divine," and the emperor ordered a well to be dug at the location. Although this story is on the legendary side, the hot springs in Liaoyang certainly have advantages: They are uncommonly high in radon content, and at a maximum temperature of 72 degrees Celsius (162 degrees F), the water is effective treatment for many ailments such as high blood pressure and arthritis.

Another of Liaoyang's winter attractions is skiing.

Gongshangling Ski Resort features several runs amidst towering alpine forests. Against blue winter skies, the white snow can blanket the mountain area for as much as four months of the year. The State General Administration of Sports designated the resort as an outdoor sports base for youngsters. More excitingly, hot springs are only a stone's throw away, allowing visitors to soak in the warmth after gliding down the snowy hills. While relaxing in the springs, one can even marvel at those shooting down the slopes. As its fame steadily grows, the hotspot is becoming more and more crowded, attracting visitors from an increasingly wider radius.

Liaoyang has a history of 2,400 years. From the 3rd century B.C. all the way until the 17th century, it served as the political, economic, cultural, and transportation hub of the northeastern regions. Though now a relatively small city, Liaoyang is conveniently only a two-hour drive from the provincial capital of Shenyang. Visitors can sample genuine northeastern lifestyle by celebrating Chinese New Year at a farmer's house or shopping at a suburban fair.

To help stimulate its winter tourism in recent years, the municipal government is promoting a series of attractions such as the ski resort, hot springs, fur clothing shopping, temple fairs, and New Year celebrations. With the arrival of the annual snow and hot spring tourist festival, visitors from near and far are lured to Liaoyang to taste its special flavor of winter sunshine.

A snow-blanketed hot spring pool. by Liang Weijie

The thermal mineral mud at Anshan Tanggangzi Hot Spring Spa near Liaoyang can enhance health. by Liang Weijie

Alpine paragliding is a popular recreational activity available at Liaoyang's Gongchangling Ski Resort. by Liang Weijie

A snowy mountain in Hailuo Valley. CFP

Hot Springs in Ice

In the southeast of Sichuan Province's Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Hailuo Valley rests 296 kilometers from the provincial capital of Chengdu, and is well-known for both magnificent glaciers and refreshing hot springs. As China's only glacier forest park, Hailuo Valley is home to one of only a few existing low altitude glaciers in the world. January is one of the best times to visit the place, when its hot springs in snow compare to those of Hokkaido, complemented by the most beautiful glaciers in western China.

Traditionally, February is the peak tourist season in Hailuo Valley. CFP

Hailuo Valley's winter is quite poetic. It boasts glaciers with a total area of 31 square kilometers, an ice fall of 1,000 meters in both height and width, and a six-kilometer-long glacier tongue into primeval fir forests, offering rare natural scenery. Ascending the observation deck, tourists can see vast expanses of impressive glaciers. The deck provides a rare visual feast of ice cracks, giant stairways, ice pillars, ice arches, the broad U-shape glacier valley itself, and emerald virgin forests.

At present, four campsites serve tourists visiting Hailuo Valley. At an altitude of 1,940 meters, No.1 Campsite features vegetation of subtropical semi-arid valley shrublands. Only seven kilometers away, No.2 Campsite sits at an altitude of 2,580 meters amidst plentiful hot springs.

Magnificent glaciers. CFP

Tips:

Hailuo Valley is full of high-quality hot spring resorts. However, Minya Konka Glacial Hot Springs & Resort, near No.1 Campsite, is considered optimum for most, due to its comparatively low altitude. The resort is one of the premier natural hot spring complexes in southwestern China, featuring spectacular views and revitalizing springs.

Hot tubs surrounded by snowy mountains. CFP

If travelers leave No.2 Campsite via Shuihaizi Lake, the only ancient glacial lake in the valley, they can climb to No.3 Campsite at an altitude of 2,940 meters. No.3 Campsite is the ideal place for viewing "sunshine on the golden mountain," a popular spectacular vista. On a sunny day, when the rising sun glistens off the snowy mountains, the crags seem to be covered in sparkling gold. The final site, No.4, is 3,600 meters above sea level. The campsite, where visitors have a full view of the glaciers in the valley, is also the upper-most terminal for the newly-constructed glacier tram.

For tourists, Hailuo Valley's hot springs are a must-see. Plenty of hot, warm, and cold springs can be found at almost every reachable place, either seeping from ground, in the form of streams, or part of the waterfalls. Free from pollution and contamination, water from the cold springs is safe to drink. It is a stunning juxtaposition that in a valley near such huge glaciers, boiling springs are so abundant.

Of the four campsites in Hailuo Valley, No.2 is the most well-known for its hot springs. Hot water gushes from underground, with the highest temperature reaching 90 degrees Celsius (194 degrees F), enough to make tea or boil eggs. Presently, No.2 Campsite features 15 outdoor hot spring pools of varying sizes, plus a 200-square-meter warm swimming pool. The high-quality thermal springs can serve as effective treatment for neuralgia, diabetes, arthritis, and gastrointestinal problems.

It can be highly pleasurable to wash away fatigue in the warm water. Bathing in falling snow can bring unprecedented relaxation. Along with those of No.2 Campsite, another hot spring of similar quality has been developed between the valley entrance and No.1 Campsite.

Traditionally, February is the peak season in Hailuo Valley, especially around Chinese New Year, when tourists come to experience the glaciers and hot springs as family activities. Thus, visiting earlier in January can be especially wise.

“Butterflies love flowers” remains a popular festive subject in traditional Chinese culture.

Never Underestimate a Butterfly

Text by Zhao Yan
Photographs by Yang Jiankun

Zhao Qinglin observes a butterfly larva.

In days when habitat degradation, alien species invasion, climate change, excessive exploitation of resources, environmental pollution, and wildlife disease are commonplace, the speed of extinction amongst endangered species is accelerating at an alarming rate. The decreasing number of butterfly species is one particularly troubling figure. A decrease in butterfly population threatens the survival of other insects, which could cause a chain reaction leading to the demise of countless other animals. As a British biologist once remarked, man should never underestimate a butterfly.

Inspired by his special fondness for butterflies, Zhao Qinglin established a butterfly breeding base in Beijing’s suburbs. “As a result of extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, it’s no longer easy to find beautiful butterflies in the wild now,” lamented Zhao, “so we started trying to preserve their beauty.”

Zhao recalled his initial intention when he and his wife made the decision to breed butterflies. "Since their natural beauty is fading, we hoped to revive the beauty with our own hands," he explained. "We love butterflies because they're beautiful, but the decline of the species should be considered a sign of an eco-crisis. We are just trying to restore the idyllic life that I believe everyone adores, which includes butterflies and dragonflies dancing amongst flowers along with birds, chicken, and dogs twittering nearby. Breeding butterflies is an attempt to salvage beauty."

Butterfly Home

Zhao's initial dream is slowly becoming a reality, with his home evolving into an attraction that amazes more and more visitors. His 20,000-square-meter courtyard is surrounded by houses amidst green trees facing a verdant vegetable garden in the distance, and beneath an adjacent flower shelf, flocks of chickens, ducks, geese, and dogs leisurely frolic. Most importantly, of course, Zhao's manor hosts a considerable population of butterflies.

"What is that?" I asked, pointing at a butterfly flapping its blue wings above the flowers, reluctant to leave.

"That's a Papilio maacki," Zhao instantly replied. "See, they're everywhere." Indeed, just above the Aristolochia debilis near my feet, a similar pair rested, while several other couples shuttled amongst yellow cypresses a few steps away. Another common species, yellow Pieridae, was setting off radish leaves in the vegetable garden.

"It's really a challenge to raise butterflies in northern places like Beijing," Zhao sighed. "Unlike the southern regions where butterflies can be found in every season, the cold weather during the long northern winter shortens the butterfly's lifespan." According to Zhao, different species survive winter cold in different ways. Those of the Papilionidae family, for example, survive in the form of a chrysalis; large purple fritillaries transform into nymphae; and nymphalids pass the days as imagoes, primarily resting in warmer abodes such as tree holes and mountain caves.

Many years of breeding experience has broadened Zhao's knowledge to significant lengths, so much so that many entomologists have visited to consult him. Gracing the gate of his compound is an array of signs indicating all the designations he has acquired, such as Farmers' Field School, Butterfly Base of Mentougou District Longquanwu Primary School, Chinese Children's Scientific Education Base, and Extracurricular Experimental Base of Chinese Youngsters Development Service Center. The compound includes a butterfly incubation room, a sample exhibition house, a library, a studio, classrooms, and a "butterfly base camp," spanning an area of 1,000 square meters.

Generally, the "base camp" hosts a moderate population of inhabitants, and Zhao breeds additional amounts if orders arrive from outside, usually between March and September. "Butterflies are not easy to raise," he illustrated. "Unlike other animals, they require an ideal environ-

Zhao Qinglin is now an expert in butterfly breeding.

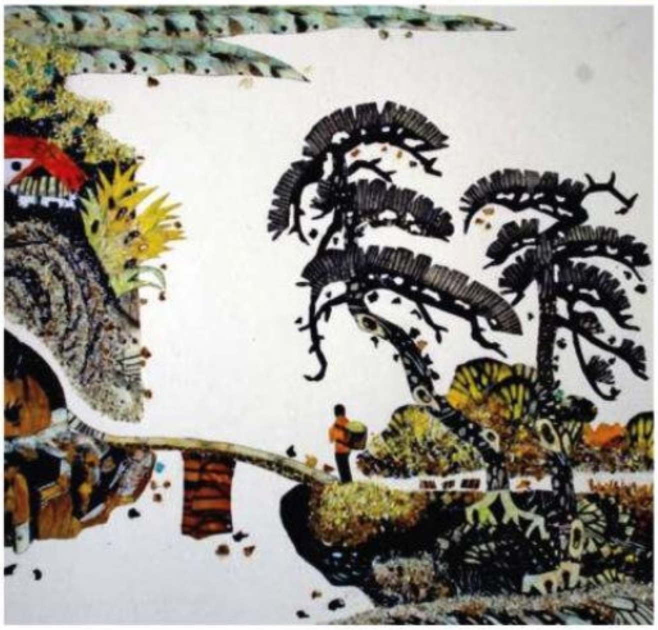
Each phase of the butterfly's growth, from egg to larva to adult, exhibits the beauty of life.

ment. So, for the sake of the insect, I frequently travel to the South and take back cold-resistant flowers and grass. It's a lot of hassle."

Butterfly Obsession

Zhao's love affair with the butterfly can be traced back to 2004, when he happened to read a newspaper report on an emerging overseas phenomenon of breeding butterflies. Zhao was then working as director of a tree farm in Beijing's Mentougou District while running the district's largest liquefied gas station, which earned him enough income to allow raising butterflies purely as a hobby.

At the outset, Zhao and his wife often scoured Mentougou's mountains to catch butterflies, and occasionally they took back larvae and eggs, which they incubated. Zhao had no experience in breeding insects, nor did he receive education in the field, so he had to find the way himself. He spent long stretches observing dietary habits of the butterfly to figure out which plants certain species of the insect liked to eat, summarized the incubation lengths and adult lifespan of different kinds of butterflies, and learned to identify various butterfly eggs. He studied literature on the insect extensively and visited research institutes to consult entomologists with a variety of questions. Due to his lack of experience, he unavoidably suffered disastrous setbacks. For instance, unaware of the insect's natural enemies, several times he witnessed the demise of an entire group while it was still in infancy. Even after he learned how to defend against the frog, mantis, and ant, ignorance of parasitic behavior among insects caused him to suffer even more disappointments.



Crafts made of butterfly wings have changed Zhao Qinglin's fortunes.

Today, in Zhao's professionally equipped breeding house, the lifespan of the butterflies can be prolonged by controlling the temperature and humidity. The optimal temperature for breeding is around 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees F), and the structure can house up to 60,000 chrysalises at the same time.

Species Conservation

In addition to raising butterflies, Zhao is also engaged in the production of butterfly pictures. His wife, Deng Xiumei, was formerly employed in the fine arts, and she hired several assistants to craft products from samples she designed independently with collected wings of dead butterflies. The images are devoted to a wide range of subjects, and her craftsmanship is so superb that viewers can hardly believe that the patterns are actually composed of real butterfly wings. Among their many works, a masterpiece depicting a tiger took four outside artists six months to complete. It is now valued as the top treasure in the couple's home.

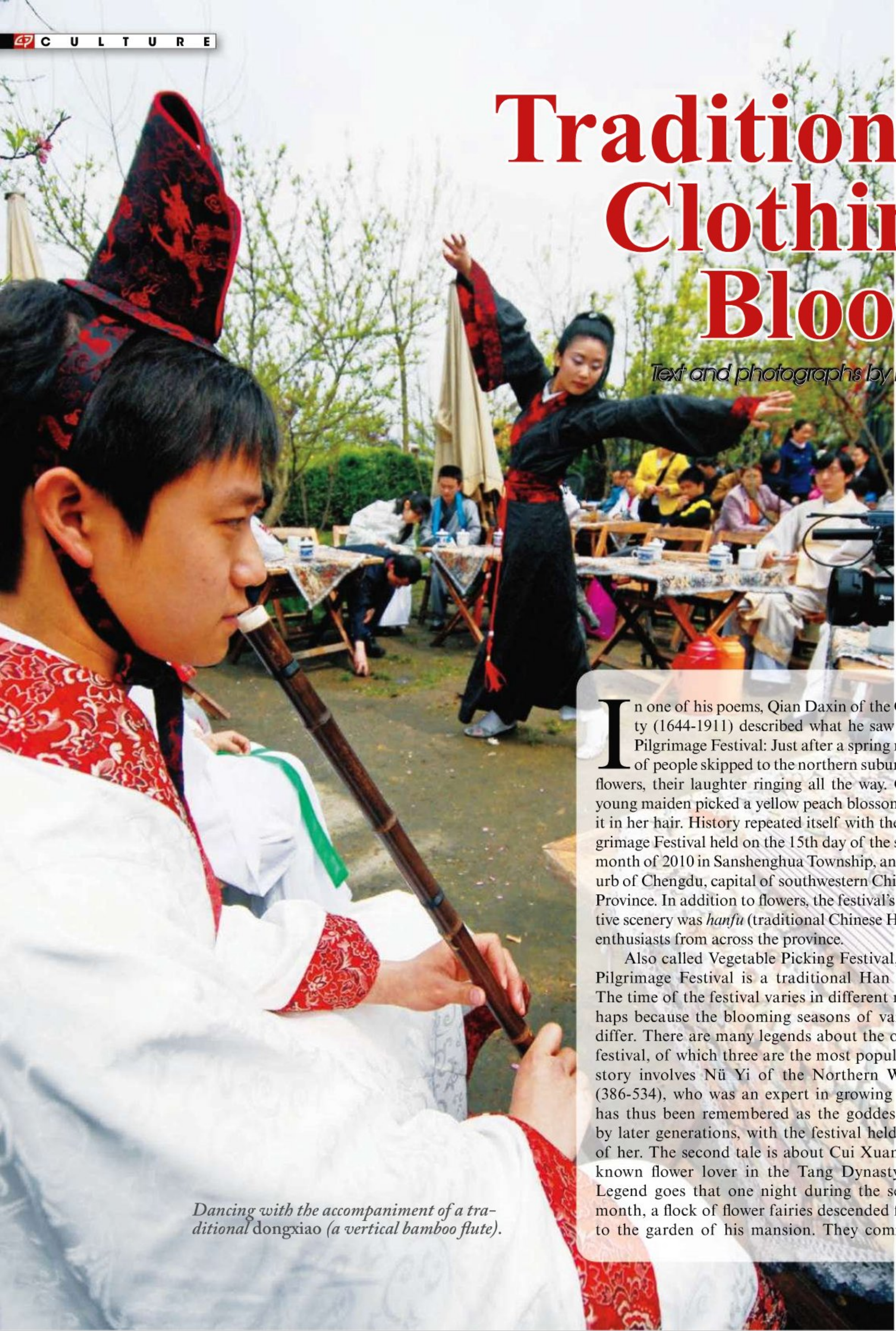
Discontent with simple amusement and appreciation, Zhao once considered conducting experimental research. He tried cross breeding a Papilio maacki and a Papilio xuthus, but found that unlike many other species, mating rarely occurs between different kinds of butterflies. Zhao attributes the failed attempt to his limited knowledge about insects. He accepted relegation to a butterfly breeder.

"It would be better if butterflies could multiply without human assistance, but the population of this species has kept dropping recently in many places," he noted. "Several years ago, to protect butterflies from permanent disappearance from Indonesia's rainforests, the Indonesian government asked its farmers to breed the insect extensively. After our butterfly home was reported by media outlets, we welcomed many visitors who came to learn butterfly breeding. However, we got mixed feelings about this when we realized that some of them were looking to make a fortune rather than conserve the species. But we really need butterflies in our life, along with other animals, including many almost disappearing for good. In another words, we hope our planet can be like a family of all species, rather than dominated by humans alone."

Zhao Qinglin worries about the survival of the butterfly.

Traditional Clothing Bloom

Text and photographs by Ran Yujie



Dancing with the accompaniment of a traditional dongxiao *(a vertical bamboo flute).*

In one of his poems, Qian Daxin of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) described what he saw at a Flower Pilgrimage Festival: Just after a spring rain, throngs of people skipped to the northern suburb to see wild flowers, their laughter ringing all the way. Childishly, a young maiden picked a yellow peach blossom and placed it in her hair. History repeated itself with the Flower Pilgrimage Festival held on the 15th day of the second lunar month of 2010 in Sanshenghua Township, an eastern suburb of Chengdu, capital of southwestern China's Sichuan Province. In addition to flowers, the festival's most attractive scenery was *hanfu* (traditional Chinese Han clothing) enthusiasts from across the province.

Also called Vegetable Picking Festival, the Flower Pilgrimage Festival is a traditional Han celebration. The time of the festival varies in different regions, perhaps because the blooming seasons of various plants differ. There are many legends about the origin of the festival, of which three are the most popular: The first story involves Nü Yi of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), who was an expert in growing flowers and has thus been remembered as the goddess of flowers by later generations, with the festival held in memory of her. The second tale is about Cui Xuanwei, a well-known flower lover in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Legend goes that one night during the second lunar month, a flock of flower fairies descended from heaven to the garden of his mansion. They commanded the flowers to blossom the next day, but the god of wind wouldn't allow it, so the fairies asked Cui to help out. Before dawn, he sheltered the flowers in the garden with silk cloth painted with the sun, moon and stars. When dawn arrived, a gale of wind blew, but the flowers were protected by the silk shelters. Later, it became routine for flower lovers to shelter their blossoms with silk on the early morning of the Flower Pilgrimage Festival. According to the third concept, the second lunar month marks the bloom of various flora, so the festival is held to celebrate the birthday of those flowers. Gradually, the festival has become a traditional event featuring such activities as spring outings as well as flower worship and protection.

Guzheng *(Chinese zither) is a favorite musical instrument of* **hanfu** *enthusiasts.*

Around 9 a.m., dozens of participants in traditional *hanfu* arrived at the site of the festival. The men dressed in long robes with loose sleeves and traditional kerchiefs or hats, while women wore tall chignons with jade hairpins and old-fashioned earrings made of pearls. They greeted each other in the traditional manner of their ancestors in the Han (202 B.C. - 220) and Tang Dynasties. Throughout history, traditional Chinese clothing kept evolving. However, many still believe that Han and Tang clothes best showcase the essential etiquette and culture of ancient China. Many *hanfu* lovers often dress up for traditional festivals, hoping to publicize traditional Chinese culture and etiquette.

After exchanging conventional greetings, they sat down under a peach tree. Because of newcomers, they began to introduce themselves. Interestingly, each participant was required to recite a poem containing the word "flower" promptly after introducing himself. Then, the person presiding over the ritual inserted a flower in the hair of the speaker. The recitation attracted passersby who stopped to watch. A boy with his mother showed particular curiosity. The *hanfu* enthusiasts invited the boy and his mother to join them. "This experience will definitely help my son deeper understand ancient Chinese culture," declared the mother, with a smile.

Following the "flower wearing" ceremony were traditional pastimes such as a guessing game and antithetical couplet matching. Losers were required to perform a skill or compose a poem.

Then came a game called "passing the flower along with drumbeat." A person beating a drum turned his back on the rest participants in a circle. The drum sounded as a bouquet was passed from one person to another. Whoever held the bouquet when the drumbeat stopped was required to sing or dance for the rest.

At lunchtime, they shared homemade flower cakes. The tradition of eating flower cakes at the Flower Pilgrimage Festival originated in the Tang Dynasty. Flower cakes are usually made of rice flour steamed together with flower petals, sesame seeds, and sugar, creating a crispy taste and fragrant aroma.

Afternoon activities included some outdoor games that were popular in ancient times. For instance, *rang* is a game named for a shoe-shaped wooden device of the same name. It is similar to Western horseshoes: the players place a *rang* on the ground, and then throw another from a distance, attempting to hit it. Another game, *touhu*, was popular at aristocratic banquets in antiquity. Originally, players threw arrows into a carafe of wine, and the loser had to drink it as a penalty. Later, the carafe and arrows used in the game were both changed. In the modern festival's version, the loser is no longer punished with drinking, but rather required to tell a joke or make a face to amuse everyone else. They also practiced *shanghong*, literally "admiring flowers," in which the participants pasted colorful paper on the branches of plants. They wrote puzzles on the paper, so any onlookers could join the guessing game. The winner was honored with a flower.

Some bystanders displayed great interest in the beautiful *hanfu* clothing, so the *hanfu* enthusiasts explained the styles and terminologies of traditional clothes. "Such terms as *zhiju* (straight lapels), *zhishen* (straight full body garment), *quju* (diagonal body wrapping), and *duanda* (short skirt) refer to the styles of garments," one of them explained. "In ancient times, *shenyi* (a long full-body garment) was usually worn at ceremonial occasions, and *gongdi* (palace ribbon) was a kind of waist ornament." In this way, they not only showcased the beauty and subtlety of traditional *hanfu*, but also spread knowledge of the traditional lifestyles of Han and Tang Dynasties.

At the end of the party, participants joined in singing *Returning to the Han and Tang Dynasties*, a song they composed themselves. With the accompaniment of music performed with traditional zithers and flutes, the song resembled chanting from the remote past. However, their emotional singing left me feeling a bit ashamed for neglecting the brilliant history of China. Perhaps the following day, the *hanfu* enthusiasts would be dressed in modern Western-style suits as they returned to their daily life. But, their efforts to preserve interest in traditional Chinese clothing at the festival deserve praise, reminding modern society to respect history.

Coo-coo Art

Text by Ai Youdi and Zhao Yue
Photographs by Ai Youdi

WHAT ON EARTH IS A CLAY COO-COO? MOST PEOPLE ARE PUZZLED WHEN FIRST HEARING THE NAME. CLAY COO-COO IS THE NAME FOR CLAY FIGURINES FROM XUNXIAN COUNTY, HENAN PROVINCE. THE FIGURINES ARE SMALL, WITH SIZES RANGING FROM ONLY A FEW CENTIMETERS UP TO 20 CENTIMETERS. EACH FIGURINE FEATURES HOLES THAT PRODUCE A "COO" SOUND WHEN BLOWN, HENCE THE NAME.

THE ART IS BELIEVED TO HAVE A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 1,300 YEARS. HISTORICAL RECORDS SHOW THAT DURING THE LATE SUI DYNASTY (581-618), XUNXIAN WAS A BATTLEFIELD BETWEEN REBEL FORCES AND THE RULING GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME. SOME REBEL SOLDIERS MADE CLAY FIGURINES AND HORSES IN MEMORY OF THEIR FELLOW SOLDIERS WHO HAD FALLEN. LATER, WHEN SOME OF THE SOLDIERS SETTLED DOWN IN THE COUNTY, THE ART CONTINUED.

A boy and his favorite clay toys.

Clay Figurines

Xunxian clay figurines include more than 100 varieties in three categories: human, birds, and other animals. Most human pieces are designed after characters from classic novels, stories and folk operas. Animal pieces frequently depict tigers, elephants, lions, swallows, turtle doves, and peacocks. Against black, white, and brown backgrounds, pigments of red, green, blue, yellow and other bright colors are mixed with egg yolk to make them shinier. In 2006, the clay art was added to China's intangible cultural heritage list. Simple designs mixing bright colors give figurines a strong pastoral flavor.

Xunxian clay figurines are mainly produced by small family-based workshops. During the farming offseason, the whole family — men and women, young and old — gather to make them. Time passes quickly with their chatting and laughter. Preparing mud or designing — every person can find work to do. Completed figurines need to dry before they can be fired in family kilns. Consequently, vivid figurines can be seen on windowsills, walls, and

Clay figurines in various designs.

Startling realism.

cooking benches in every household.

Four primary production methods account for Xuxian clay figurines. The first employs moulds, often used to make swallows and little girls. The second, hand-kneading, is used for horses and monkeys. The third combines mould-making and hand-kneading for figures such as horse riders. Finally, craftsmen sometimes add wire and springs to make movable lions and horses. The mud and tools are simple and easy to find locally. Water is added to the mud before it is beaten with a wooden stick until becoming soft like dough. Craftsmen often use bamboo sticks as their tools, with one end dull and wide and the other sharp. The stick is used to craft the nose, mouth, eyes, and patterns on the figurines as well as the holes that create sounds when blown.

Traditional Toys

The most exciting event for Xunxian locals occurs when visitors from nearby counties come to celebrate Spring Festival. Grand temple fairs lasting longer than two weeks are organized by the county. Large crowds of tourists also present business opportunities. Some locals joke that during the last month of the Chinese lunar year, all of Xunxian is doing one thing: preparing temple fairs!

Every winter, county residents are busy making and coloring clay figurines. Still, no matter how many figurines they manage to make, the products will inevitably sell out during the first lunar month at temple fairs. Making clay figurines has become a consistent way to create extra income.

Decades ago, temple fairs were already attracting people from surrounding areas. Visitors often bought nothing except the clay figurines while their kids waited anxiously at home. During the poverty-stricken era, clay figurines were the only toys many regional children ever received. The figurines became an expected gift from parents returning from a temple fair.

Along with children, clay figurines are also popular with women for one simple reason. A folk saying goes, "a clay rooster brings sons and grandsons," so old ladies and young housewives are willing to spend a few cents on a lucky figurine, in hopes of it helping to bring them more offspring.

Clay Village

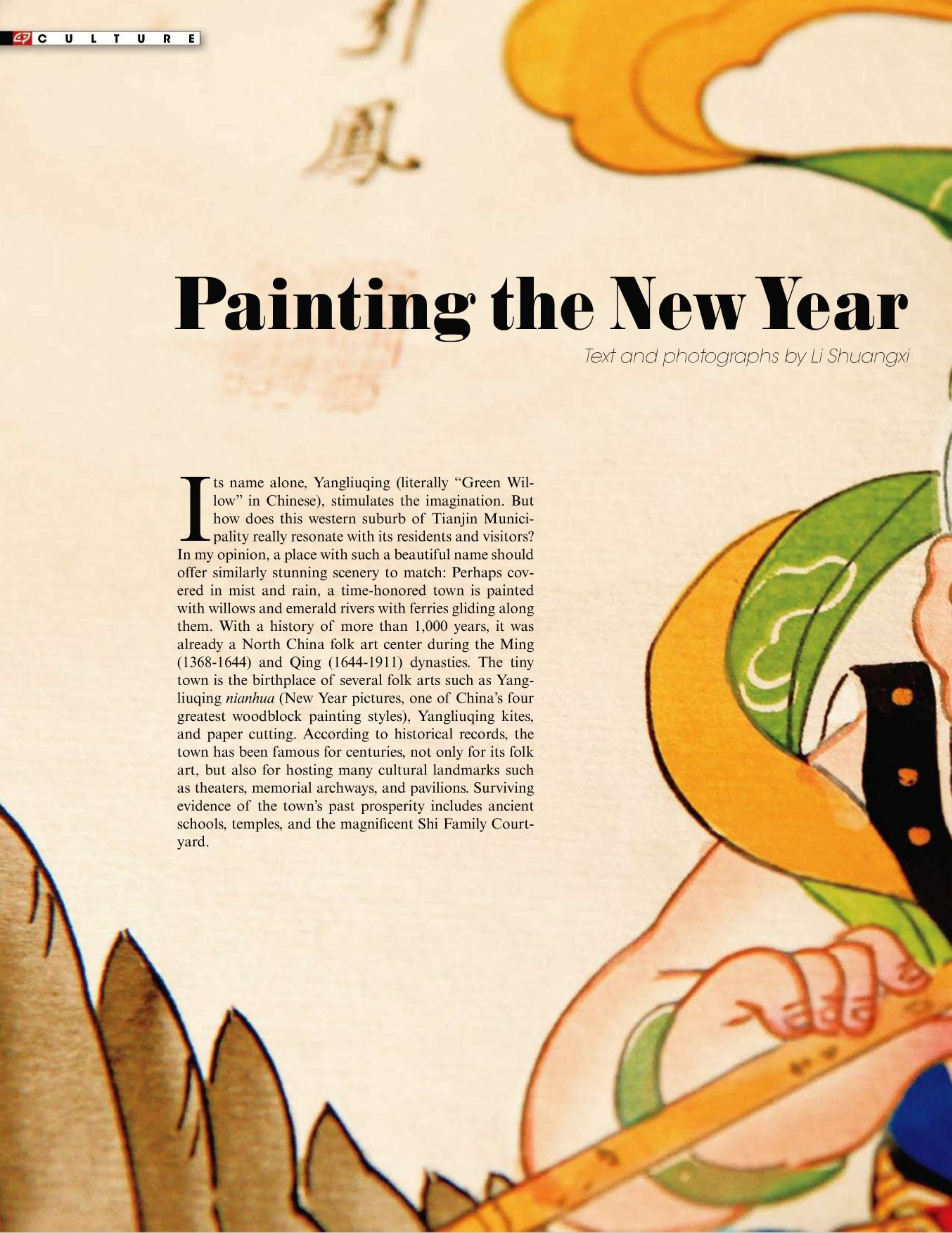
Yangqitun Village of Xunxian County is particularly famed for its clay figurines. It would be no exaggeration to assert that years ago, everyone in the village was an expert on the art. One of them, Wang Lantian was a lifetime lover and expert of the craft, with a story worth learning.

Wang used to make clay figurines primarily for fun and extra pocket money. In 1986, a Japanese buyer offered to purchase some of his pieces for 20 yuan each. Wang was shocked because he was asking only one yuan each. The order totaled more than 2,000 yuan and Wang has been well-known ever since. Buyers from Beijing and Shanghai began to visit him and his works were even added to the British Museum and National Art Museum of China.

"Actually, Xunxian people have been earning money from selling clay figurines for a long time," Wang Hongrui, Wang Lantian's grandson explains. "In the past, an ordinary family could survive for a year on the profits from selling clay figurines at just two temple fairs."

During the long practice period, people from Yangqitun Village have improved techniques and created a unique style. "Since people find that making figurines brings huge profits, almost every household in the village is involved in the craft, which can not only bring the village economic benefits, but also fame," notes Zheng Jiqing, director of Xunxian County Cultural Center.

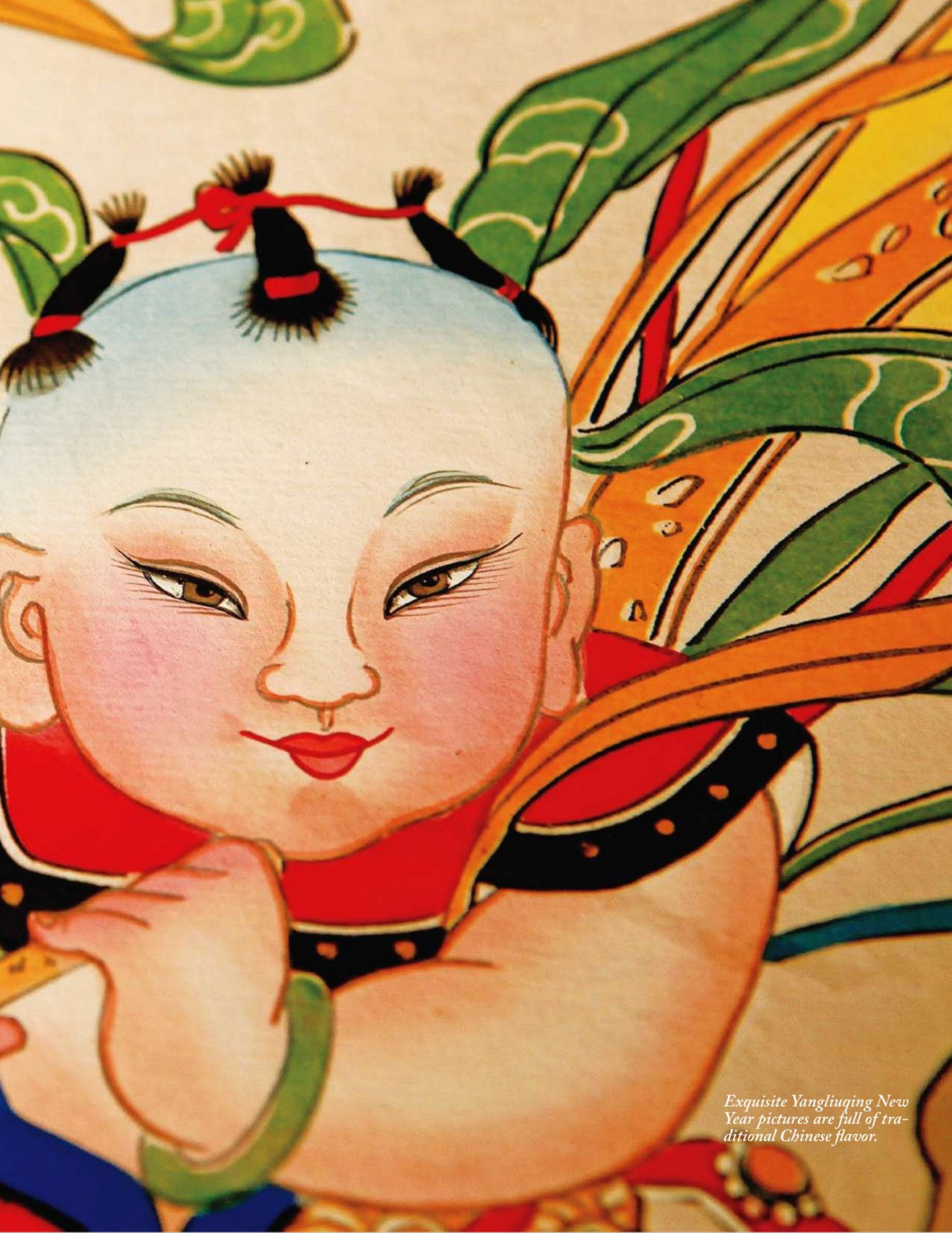
In early 2009, Wang Lantian passed away, marking a huge loss to the village and the art. Fortunately, he has passed his skills along to many clay figurine lovers and artists, so that it can be carried on for years to come.



Painting the New Year

Text and photographs by Li Shuangxi

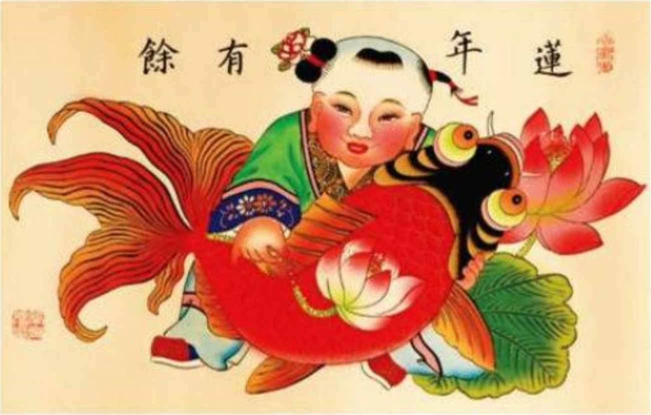
Its name alone, Yangliuqing (literally "Green Willow" in Chinese), stimulates the imagination. But how does this western suburb of Tianjin Municipality really resonate with its residents and visitors? In my opinion, a place with such a beautiful name should offer similarly stunning scenery to match: Perhaps covered in mist and rain, a time-honored town is painted with willows and emerald rivers with ferries gliding along them. With a history of more than 1,000 years, it was already a North China folk art center during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. The tiny town is the birthplace of several folk arts such as Yangliuqing *nianhua* (New Year pictures, one of China's four greatest woodblock painting styles), Yangliuqing kites, and paper cutting. According to historical records, the town has been famous for centuries, not only for its folk art, but also for hosting many cultural landmarks such as theaters, memorial archways, and pavilions. Surviving evidence of the town's past prosperity includes ancient schools, temples, and the magnificent Shi Family Courtyard.



Exquisite Yangliuqing New Year pictures are full of traditional Chinese flavor.

The first step for overprinting is to brush ink on the stone block.

Coloring by hand, an essential step.



The finished product, Enjoying Prosperity Year After Year.

How do the town's 21st century appearance and New Year pictures compare with those in its glory days? With this question in mind, I boarded a bus. It was a rainy day, and the drizzle was keeping my spirits low. After bumping along a country road for some time, I finally arrived at the town, which turned out to be quite different from what I had imagined after reading about it in books. Over the years, it changed so much that even willows were hard to find. I was disappointed. Could this possibly be the same place that earned such widespread fame?

However, the moment I entered a workshop producing New Year pictures, I felt the ancient town instantly come to life again.

With a history of more than 1,000 years, New Year pictures are paintings that Chinese people use to decorate during Spring Festival. It is said that no matter where on earth they live, the pictures can always be found amongst Chinese people. Likewise, you can always find the influence of Yangliuqing in every image.

Yangliuqing woodblock New Year pictures first appeared in the mid-14th century. In an era characterized by chaos caused by wars and social unrest, the people of Yangliuqing illustrated their hope for a good life in engravings and printings. With a fusion of realism and romanticism, the images covered a wide range of subject matter with a strong festive atmosphere. They became most popular from the reign of Emperor Yongzheng (1678-1735) through the early reign of Guangxu (1875-1908). Together with more than 30 nearby villages, Yangliuqing Town became the capital of New Year pictures, with almost every household gaining a mastery of the skill and transforming into a workshop. The area's shops soon attracted merchants from across the nation. However, around 1860, demand for the paintings started to decline. In 1926, Huo Yutang, a fifth-generation artisan, opened a shop called Yu Cheng Hao, marking the rejuvenation of the art form.

Yangliuqing pictures embody common hope for a better life. *Lian Nian You Yu*, meaning "enjoying prosperity year after year," is one particularly popular Yangliuqing New Year picture. In the image, a boy holds a lotus in his hand and a goldfish in his arms. "Lian" (lotus) is a homophone with the character in "liannian" (successive years) and "yu" (fish) is a homophone for the word meaning "surplus." Together, the name connotes enjoying prosperity consistently, and having more than what is essential every year. The subjects of Yangliuqing pictures mainly include historical stories, legends, myths, opera characters, daily life, and landscapes. Subject matter related to daily life and current events is particularly popular. Such works are often valued more by both art critics and collectors.

The procedure for manufacturing Yangliuqing pictures is a complex process requiring delineation, woodcarving, overprinting, painting, and mounting. The technique for creating them has been described as "half printing and half painting," requiring carving on a wooden board, then printing an ink picture on a piece of paper, and hand-coloring after several single-color printings. The unmatched combination of the flavor of woodblock prints with the color and subtlety of hand-painting makes the local art form stand out from all others.

My mind raced as I examined the exquisite New Year pictures in a Yangliuqing shop. In the past, people communicated their hope for a better life through the pictures, making them an irreplaceable element of Spring Festival. Nowadays, with life indeed better than centuries ago, the pictures are fading from people's mind. Tradition is no longer a necessity in modern society. Like the ancient town, long past its climax of prosperity, the best of times remain forever faithfully painted and printed on paper.

Walking through the workshop, tourists feel like they are shuttling through the ages.

Many tools are employed in producing a picture.

Inviting an elderly neighbor to the meal.

The banquet provides the elderly the opportunity to enjoy family unity.

Good Food Makes Good Neighbors

Text by Ran Jing
Photographs by Ran Jing and Ran Yujie

"Bon appetit!"

"A close neighbor is better than a distant cousin," goes an old Chinese proverb. But in the modern era, increasing numbers of urban dwellers within the same reinforced concrete building find it more difficult to maintain regular communication with their neighbors on the other side of the cold cement walls. However, in the countryside, scenes of residents of an entire village coming together remain an integral part of rural Chinese landscapes.

Long Street Banquet

On the day marking the beginning of spring on traditional Chinese calendar, more than 6,000 Qujiang Community residents in Tongchuan Ancient Town of Santai County, Sichuan, take seats at some 100 tables along the old Wainan Street to share the various dishes prepared by respective households. Known to locals as the "Long Street Banquet," the event is the highlight of the county's Neighbor Festival.

The ancient town of Tongchuan, nourished by the Pujiang River for ages, was historically bustling with convenient transportation. Stretching between the city gate and dock, Wainan Street was particularly noisy, frequented by traveling merchants and officials who patronized the local restaurants, taverns, and teahouses. While merchants struck deals on the street, local residents congregated alongside them, chatting with their neighbors and watching their children playing. When spring arrived, locals began gathering on the street to share food in the warm sunlight, which gradually became a celebrated annual custom.

Despite its long tradition, the Neighbor Festival vanished for a period, and didn't resume until four years ago. When a community remodeling project was launched, it inspired the village's elders, who longed for a chance to once again share home-cooked delicacies with all those around and join in the joy and excitement of spring's arrival with their neighbors. The reincarnated Neighbor Festival saw its fourth edition in 2010, and thanks to the great support from the local authorities, the once quaint folk custom has evolved into a potential tourism resource, attracting visitors longing to experience kinship among neighbors that is somewhat hard to find in cities.

The Kitchen's Best

Before noon, traditional red lanterns already sway beneath dark tile eaves to imbue the 600-meter-long old street with a festive atmosphere. Spring couplets bearing beautiful wishes adorn the gates of every house, accompanied by jubilant songs reverberating down the street and through the air, urging on the first shy footsteps of spring.

Every local family begins to set the best their kitchens can offer on tables lining the lane. Everyone is involved, from housewives busy cooking at home to youngsters shuttling dishes and elders relaxing in the seats, chatting with their counterparts.

The tables are soon packed with specialties of respective families, mostly genuine Sichuan cuisine. The entrees often include hot pot, preserved meat, Sichuan sausage, cured pork trotters, sliced beef and ox tongue in chili sauce, and green vegetables. At the moment that all dishes are served, firecrackers explode to mark the commencement of the spectacular open-air banquet.

Children seem to practice fencing with chopsticks as they compete for meat while adults clink glasses to exchange toasts — everyone is immersed in the plethora of flavors delighting their taste buds as an unparalleled feeling of community permeates the ancient lane.

"Come here! Try this!" an old man enthusiastically calls out to curious tourists watching from a distance, inviting them to sample his roast chicken after he returns from a neighbor's table. Attracted by the growing fame of the festival, a group of young girls dressed in colorful clothes descend from the town proper to sample the food, table by table, as they make their way down the street. Similarly, many locals have bowls in hand as they walk from one end of the street to the other to enjoy the widest range of food prepared by their neighbors. The older residents remain seated, catching up on the latest news while sharing a bottle of wine.

Although each household prepares a considerable amount of food, the dishes are usually quickly gobbled up, especially the most delicious ones. Housewives responsible for the fastest disappearing dishes will understandably smile wide, their eyes glowing with pride.

A Festival for All

Numerous tourists have begun attending the festival to delight in the atmosphere and witness the intimate relationships between neighbors, along with photographers eager to capture the grandeur rarely seen in modern cities. The hospitable locals never mind pictures, and always welcome visitors to have a taste of their home dishes.

At the festival, visitors gain an understanding of local folk customs that have been handed down for generations as they listen to chatting, jokes, and discussions amongst the residents, while marveling at the genuine neighborly fellowship that sometimes only remains in the childhood memories of urban dwellers. Then, many immediately start planning to revisit the festival in the coming years.

The Long Street Banquet has become a popular local tradition.

Dressed in military outfits of the 1950s, 20 couples participate in a group wedding in Yanqing, Beijing. ***CFP***

Weddings in the New Era

Text by Mai Tian

No matter the country or culture, weddings always rank near the top of social rituals. Statistics show that every year on average, 2.5 percent of China's GDP is spent on weddings. From a cultural aspect, the Chinese place great importance on family, and marriage is essential to a family's preservation. A decent wedding not only shows respects for both families of the newlyweds, but also serves as the optimum occasion to showcase a family's wealth and power to friends and relatives. How to organize a wedding and what kind to choose are topics that many young Chinese couples must seriously consider as the big day approaches.

A solemn church wedding. by ***Xu Wei***

Phoenix coronet and gorgeous robe — key to a traditional Chinese wedding. ***IC***

A Garden Wedding

Qiao Nan, born in 1980s, is a Beijing office worker. After dating for more than a year, she and her boyfriend finally set a date and began planning their wedding.

Through heated discussions between the families, Qiao and her fiancé finally persuaded their parents to accept a garden wedding. Traditionally, Chinese families will invite as many friends and relatives as both sides can find, creating a bustling and crowded scene. But at a garden wedding, the desired scene is more "under the blue sky, the bride and groom walk into the sunset," providing a different aesthetic and limiting the number of guests. At such a wedding, invitees often will not exceed 100, considerably fewer than at traditional Chinese weddings. Consequently, only close friends and relatives can be invited to the wedding, whereas other friends and relatives are only invited to the following receptions.

To respect their parents' feelings, the couple prepared an indoor banquet to accompany the garden wedding, and planning the whole event kept them busy for months.

On the day of the wedding, Qiao's groom picked her

Recent years have brought increasing popularity of Western weddings to Chinese youth. by Mai Tian

Tossing the bouquet. by Mai Tian

up from her maiden home, in accordance with Chinese tradition, to head to the wedding site together. Before the ceremony began, the couple remained busy with their final touches, and continued briefing the situation in their room. Although the ceremony started at a carefully-chosen auspicious time, it was primarily Western style. The father of the bride walked his daughter down the aisle towards the groom. Together, the couple passed under an arch made of flowers, passing their friends and relatives, before stopping in the ceremonial area. Here, a master of ceremonies (MC) replaced the usual minister in West, followed by a funny and emotional ceremony combining Chinese elements. Finally, the MC arrived at the big moment: "I now pronounce you man and wife." However, "you may kiss the bride" was replaced by an exchange of rings.

The whole ceremony was held on grass, with decorations mainly in white and green. Flowers, ribbons, and champagne added additional romantic aura. Red, the major color of traditional Chinese weddings, could hardly be found. Later, a buffet dinner was offered instead of the traditional Chinese meal around circular tables. During the buffet, the couple toasted every participant to express thanks on behalf of both families and themselves.

New Ideas on Marriage

China is known for long and complicated wedding customs. In different parts of the country, customs usually vary considerably. Time, place, and guests are important factors to be considered when planning a wedding. The best time for a ceremony should be auspicious for both the couple and their families. The site is usually chosen at the most convenient geographical location for the majority of both families. Besides this, both families should be similar in social and economic status. Choosing invitees and deciding on activities for them are massive projects. Over the millennia, these customs have gained great value. However, in recent years, they have been challenged by the times.

With more and more Chinese youth born in the 1980s taking vows, they are more likely to choose wedding customs originating in foreign lands. Growing up along with the implementation of China's reform and opening-up, they learned from Western movies, TV programs, cartoons, novels, and the internet how couples wed in other countries. Some began considering a ceremony in a church, and some more open-minded parents have begun allowing weddings in exotic locales, an absolute "no-no" in China just a few decades ago. Traditional marriage customs are advancing with the evolution of modern Chinese culture.

The Underlying Reasons

Actually, Qiao's wedding still included many Chinese traditions. More recently married couples now choose to hold the ceremony at a vacation destination, which means a significantly smaller ceremony and that they leave for the honeymoon immediately after it concludes. Some may also hold a simple ceremony with local customs during the trip, and host a dinner for friends and relatives after they return. A greater variety of wedding choices create more opportunities for individuality, such as the popular underwater wedding and the balloon wedding.

At the same time, some Chinese couples choose an extremely traditional wedding ceremony featuring a sedan chair lifted by eight people to carry the bride accompanied by gongs and drums — another way to demonstrate their individuality.

On the surface, these new wedding forms are attributed to the nation's openness and the acceptance of foreign imports. But at the root is evidence of social development and new modernism that allow a wider range of marriage customs. China's economic and social patterns have changed profoundly over the past decades, which makes varying weddings possible. Marriage customs are no longer restricted by locale, but increasingly combine two different regions, or even two different countries. At the same time, people are evolving to be more open-minded. A tendency to demonstrate personality and individuality challenges traditions. Changes in marriage customs, always a positive factor in pushing social progress, embody China's development.

A local wedding by the bank of the Yellow River. CFP

A balloon wedding. China Foto Bank

Inheritance & Innovation

Text and photographs by Dong Fang

By mid-November, it was already chilly in Beijing. Luckily, the 5th China Beijing International Cultural & Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE 2010) was held indoors at the China International Exhibition Center, where temperatures soared with the arrival of throngs of visitors.

A dress by an indigenous fashion design company.

A creatively designed pottery figure.

ICCIE 2010 attracted many visitors.

A man shows off the 3D video-recording device that he made.

An old man carrying a never-before-seen video device to record each exhibition booth attracted the attention of many visitors. According to him, the contraption was actually two video cameras attached together, which enabled him to make 3D video. Such innovation was fitting at this particular event.

From November 17 to 21, ICCIE 2010 brought more than a million visitors to the Exhibition Center and accounted for trade contracts valued at a combined 50 billion yuan. It served as a platform for agreements between banks and enterprises totaling more than 4 billion yuan in value, a figure that tripled the number of the previous event.

Themed "creativity, technology, culture and wealth," ICCIE 2010 helped gather cultural and creative products from a variety of countries around the world under one roof and served as an ideal forum for cultural exchange. The five-day event witnessed the fusion of traditional culture and modern arts, and publicized the success of innovation featuring cutting-edge technology.

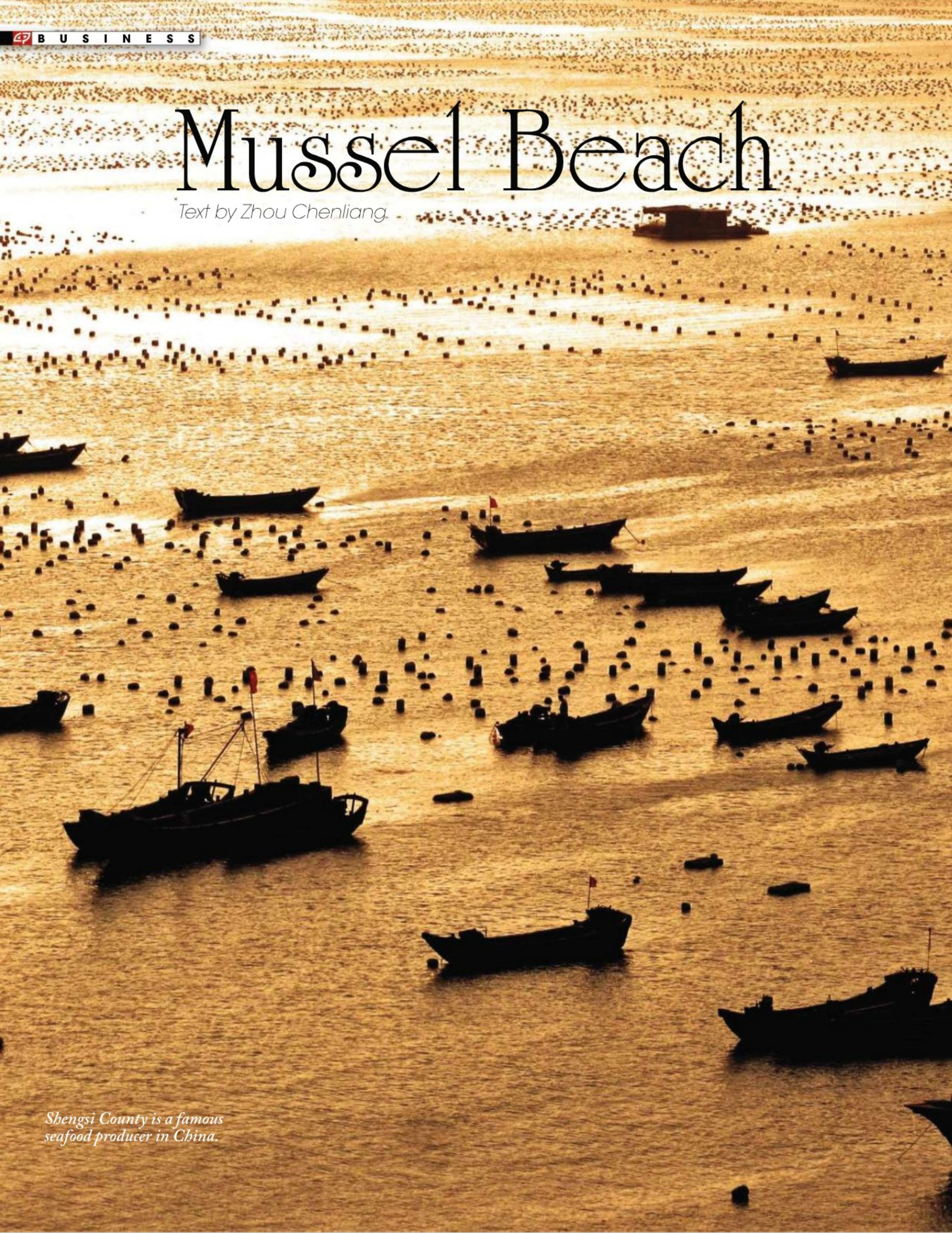
Traditional cultural heritage handed down over generations was featured, such as traditional clay figurines from Beijing, bronze craftwork from Xi'an, and Tibetan treasures such as clothing, medicine, and calligraphy. The more modern creations included fashionable attire with diverse styles. Many indigenous creative brands were noted for moving towards more internationalized designs. Additionally, many exhibits implemented high technology. For example, "Dialogue with Mona Lisa" featured a replica of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting that conversed with visitors using speech recognition technology.

However, some products, such as paper cutting and embroidery, were less innovative, but notable for creating a strong folk atmosphere. No matter how brilliant and glorious its history, ancient cultural heritage is difficult to market successfully in the modern era without persistent innovation. Fortunately, many traditional artists at the expo realized this fact. After comparing respective new creative products, artists often found inspiration to innovate and rejuvenate the traditional arts.

Two Chinese visitors are attracted by Korean porcelain on display.

Mussel Beach

Text by Zhou Chenliang



Shengsi County is a famous seafood producer in China.

Seafood produced by Shengsi County sells well around the world.

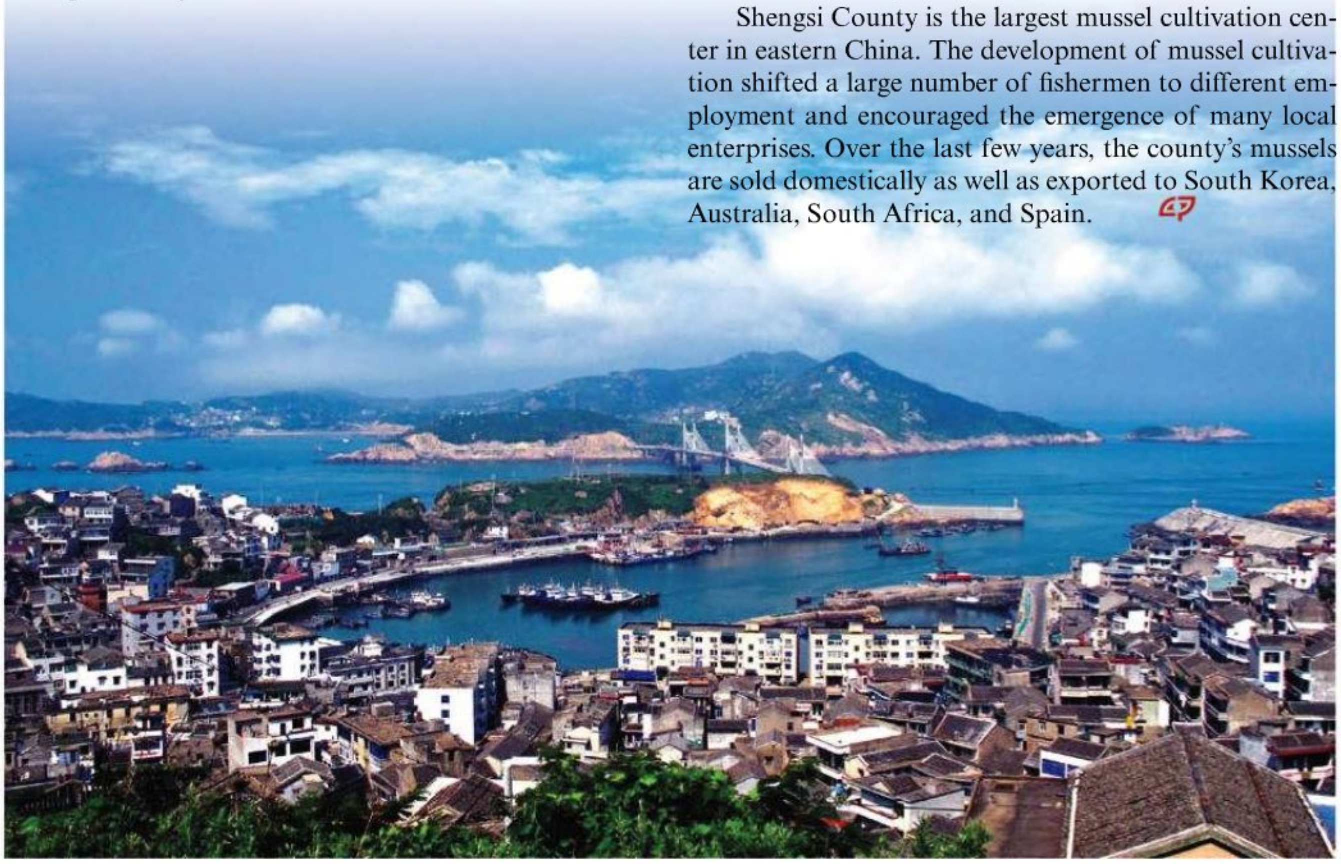
Shengsi County is located in the northernmost tip of Zhoushan City in the northeastern corner of Zhejiang Province. It is the only state-level archipelago scenic area in China. Spanning some 80 square kilometers, it has become an ideal destination for many domestic tourists.

Along with its tourism resources, the locals take pride in native products, mussels in particular, which have proven key along the road to prosperity.

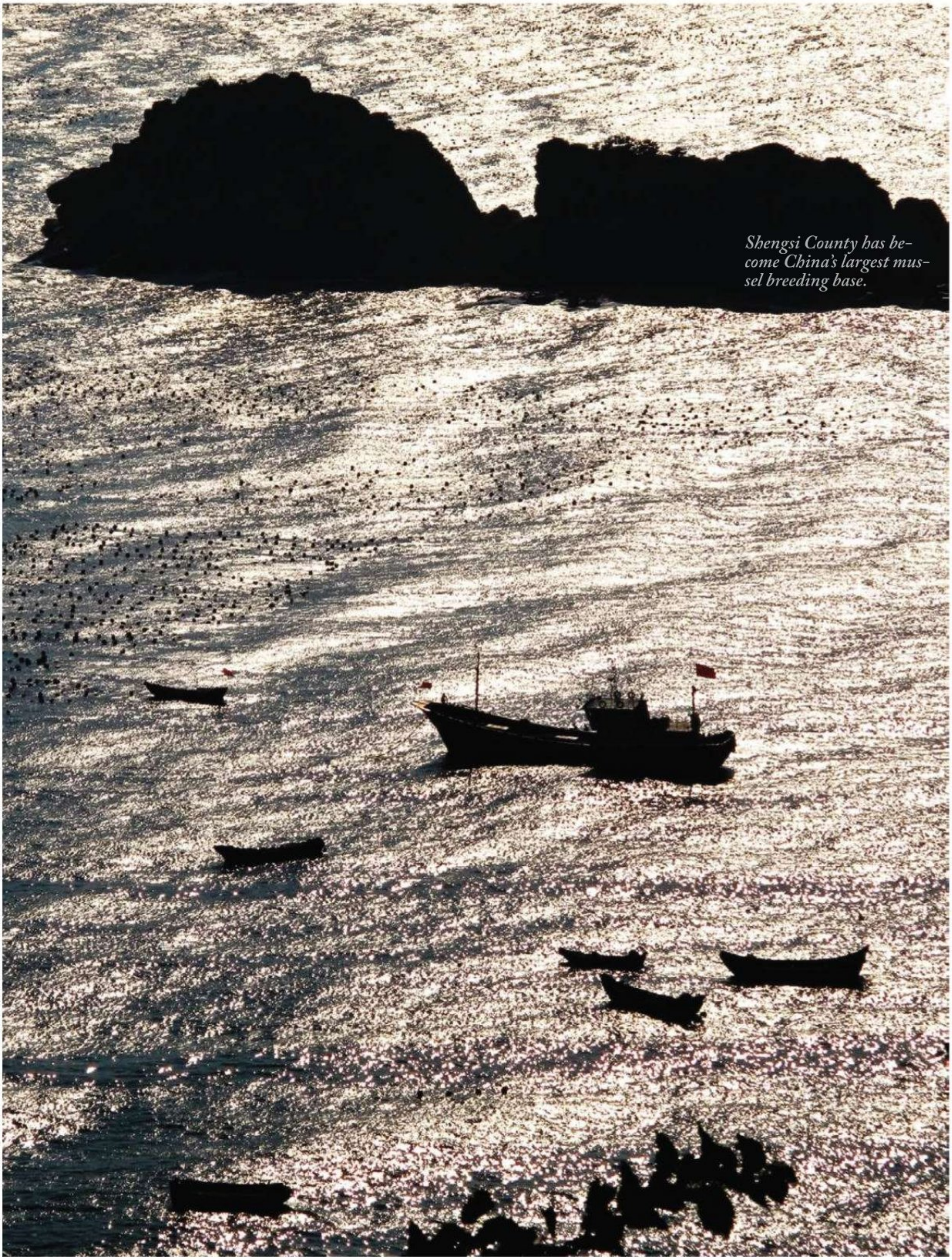
To accelerate the local economy by making full use of their native products, the county government launched various cultural festivals. The most famous one is known as the Shengsi Mussel Cultural Festival, which has been running for six years straight. The annual festival has played an important role in showcasing the appeal of new fishing villages in the county and opening a window to the outside world for future cooperation.

Shengsi County enjoys an advantageous geographical location and abundant natural resources. A neighbor of Shanghai, it is located near the mouth of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River that divides China's north and south. As a gateway to the Yangtze Valley and Shanghai, it serves as an important logistical transit center of the Yangtze River Delta and eastern China as well as an industrial base for processing over 500 kinds of aquatic products.

Shengsi County is the largest mussel cultivation center in eastern China. The development of mussel cultivation shifted a large number of fishermen to different employment and encouraged the emergence of many local enterprises. Over the last few years, the county's mussels are sold domestically as well as exported to South Korea, Australia, South Africa, and Spain.



The local seafood industry helps Shengsi people move towards prosperity.



Shengsi County has become China's largest mussel breeding base.

The Modern Face of an Old Compound

Text and photographs by Liu Xiaoxue

As one of the hundreds of *hutong*s (traditional narrow alleys) hidden in the old district of Beijing, Fangjia Hutong features a similar aura and is lined on both sides with traditional residences with black tiles and brick walls. Visitors to the *hutong* will see old men leisurely napping in the afternoon sun or reading newspapers under the shade of trees while cats prowl rooftops and dogs lounge leisurely in the lane. Compared with Beijing's other traditional *hutong*s, nothing is out of the ordinary until one enters No.46 Compound.

New Look

Upon entering No.46 Compound, visitors are first stunned by the Red Square, an avant-garde theater with seating for 520. Nicknamed "Red Owl" by its architect Ke Wei, the theater was converted from an abandoned factory. The original framework of the building was retained when the outer facade became enveloped by gigantic, red steel strips that radiate outwards from the center, adding a modern flavor. Nearby the Red Square is a rectangular glass house – Trainspotting Theme Restaurant. It frequently hosts cultural events with a variety of themes, movie screenings being the most common. Each weekend, the restaurant invites the director to engage in a dialogue with the audience after his film is screened.

A number of dance troupes, modern hotels, design studios, cafés, and shops offering creative toys have settled in the compound, surrounded by protected historic buildings. The modern tenants and the traditional surroundings create a contrast so stark that attributing any of it to a specific period becomes impossible.

A modern building and an abandoned factory contrast each other.

Factory to a Culture Zone

The compound once served as headquarters of China National Machine Tools Corporation (CNMTC). From the 1950s through 90s, the company built workshops, boiler rooms, office buildings, and auditoriums in the compound that covers 9,000 square meters. However, along with Beijing's urban development over the years, industrial factories began migrating outside of downtown areas. After its original tenants left, the compound sat unused for years until 2008.

That year, Beijing Fengbaoheng Investment Co., Ltd. signed a contract with CNMTC to rent the compound and transform it into a creative cultural zone.

"When we conducted a field survey there in March 2008, the compound was a mass of abandoned workshops, dormitories, and office buildings," recalls a clerk of the Yongheyuan Management Committee, the group tasked with designing and planning the culture zone. "The compound came back to life when we transformed it." In fact, creating a culture zone from abandoned factories is not an original idea. Beijing's famous 798 Art Zone is a successful example which particularly inspired the construction of the culture zone in the No.46 Compound.

In June 2008, Zhang Changcheng, then chief artistic director of Beijing Modern Dance Company, first visited the compound. After only 30 minutes, he made the decision to rent three of the compound's prime buildings. That same day, he laid down a deposit even before negotiating the final rental rate. As the most prominent tenant, he then cooperated with Fengbaoheng to create a company to manage the compound. After becoming the new company's sole stakeholder, Zhang became the keeper of the entire compound. According to him, the compound would fall into chaos without comprehensive management. He plans to help it evolve into a public service platform for artistic exchange and creation.

80 ho'
The three Sweetgal

A boutique named 80 ho' is notable for flexible business hours.

Aimo Town, a cozy restaurant in the No.46 Compound.

Community of Artists

LISPACE is an interior and furniture design studio based in the No.46 Compound. Converted from an abandoned workshop, the studio retains the faded original interior walls, but new arched lines create a space with simple modernity.

"Our studio was originally located near the World Trade Center, a bustling area in downtown Beijing with a high concentration of tall office buildings," explains Gao Yin, LISPACE's chief administrative supervisor. "We moved here because the tranquil compound offers a respite from the urban bustle. Not only are cars not allowed to park inside the compound, but it is filled with strong cultural ambience imbued with Beijing flavor, thanks to the traditional *hutong*s and quadrangles."

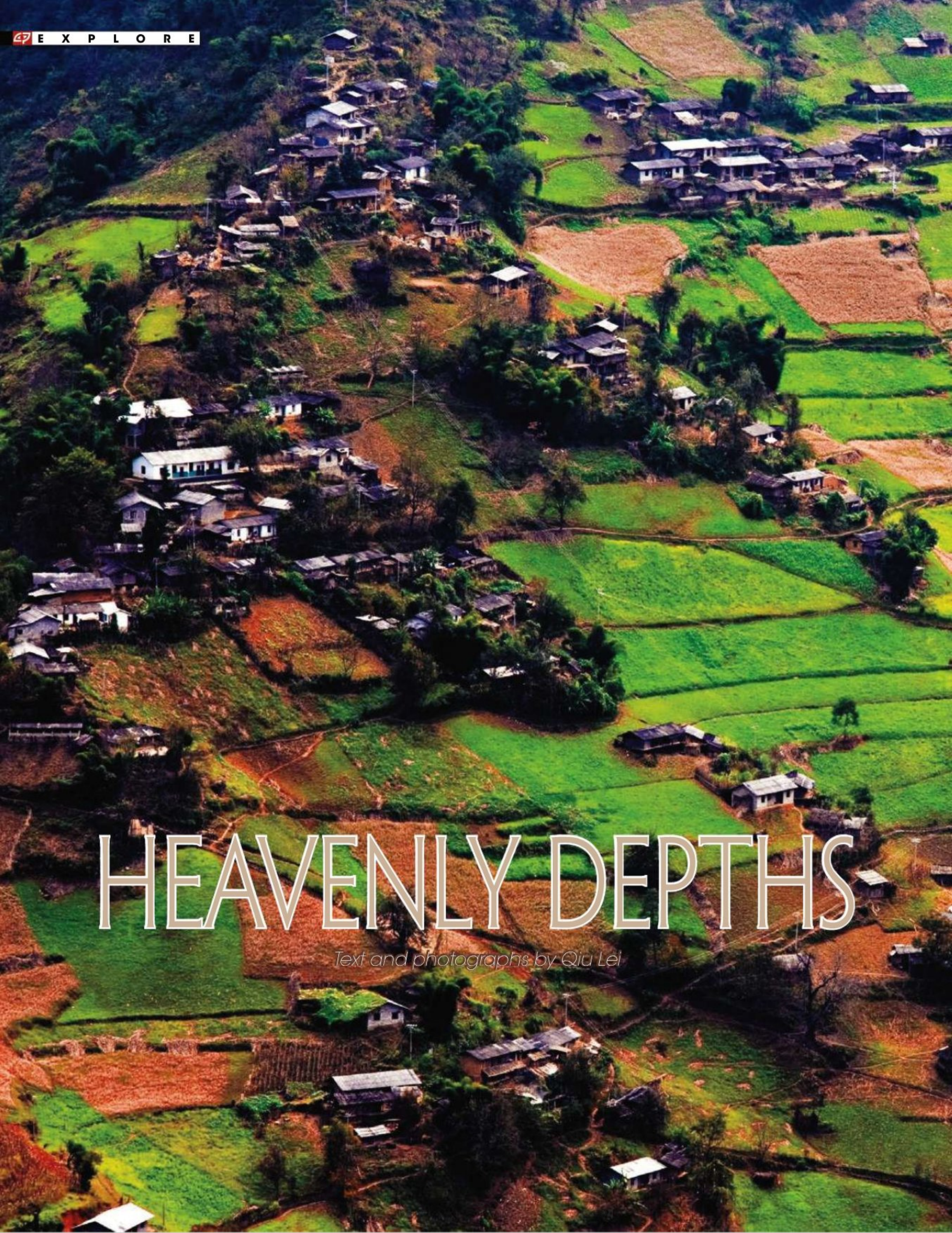
"The most special factor is that all resident artists get along well with each other," remarks Jia Li, LISPACE's chief designer. "We often call on and help each other just like intimate neighbors. Not long ago, our neighbor asked me help decorate his studio. Actually, the intimate relationship helps inspire artists to cross boundaries into a variety of different artistic realms."

New Life for Old Lane

Although nicknamed "798 near the Imperial Palace," No.46 Compound is somewhat different than 798. "In the heart of the old district of Beijing, the compound is near the Imperial Academy, Yonghegong Lamasery, Bell and Drum Tower, and Confucian Temple, which enrich the neighborhood with a cultural atmosphere," notes Jia Li, illustrating why so many artists settled there. "Also known as 'Machine Tool Hutong,' Fangjia Hutong witnessed the emergence of industrial civilization in the city, preserving part of Beijing's essential culture, and providing us with endless inspiration."

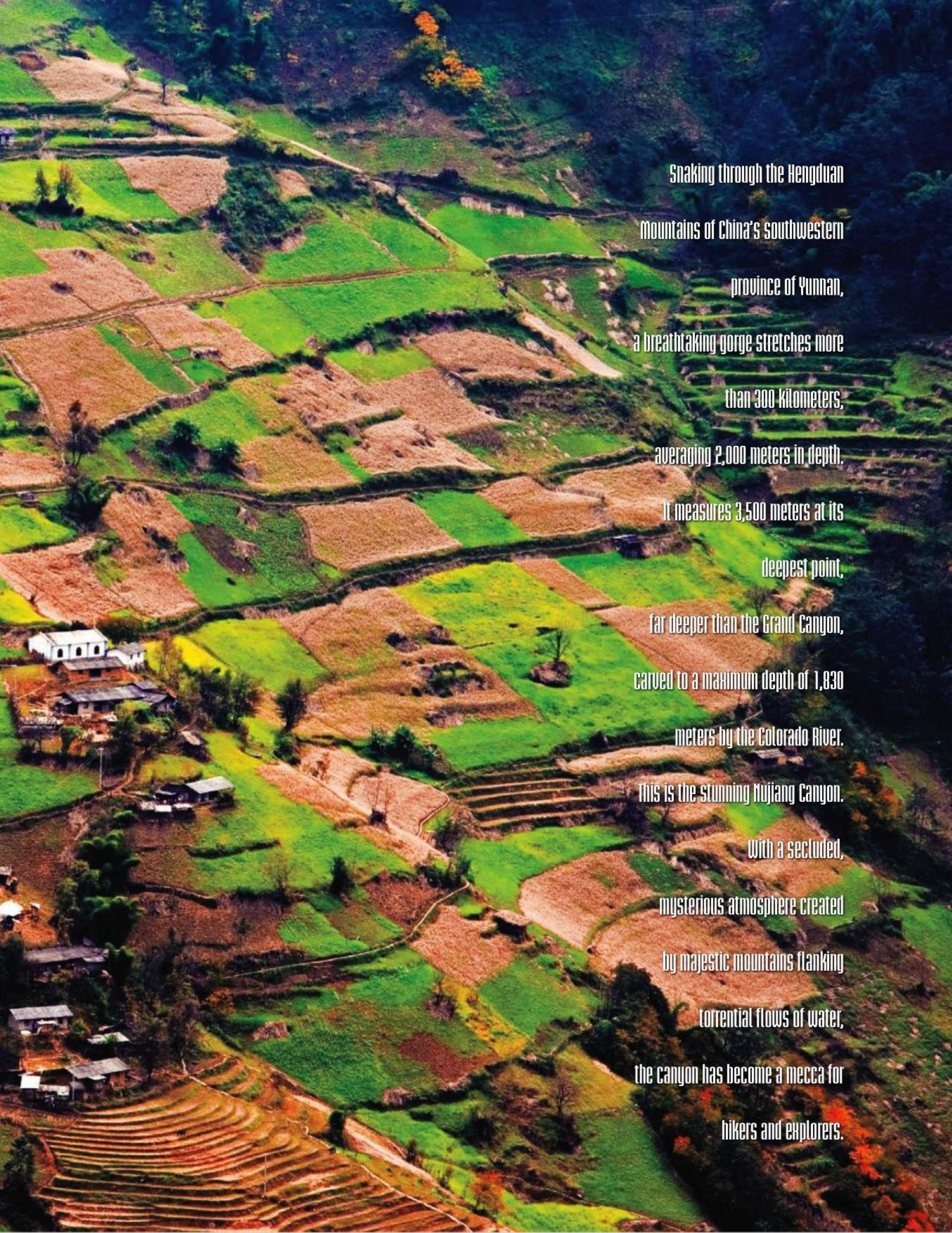
On the compound's website, Professor Cheng Manli from Peking University's School of Journalism and Communication left the comment: "Cultural creation cannot succeed without the support of traditional culture, and the development of creative industry must be fused with the inheritance of traditional culture. The classical culture in the form of the nearby Confucian Temple and Imperial Academy, along with folk cultures represented by the Bell and Drum Tower, laid a foundation for No.46 Compound's success in realizing such a fusion."

The Trainspotting Theme Restaurant.



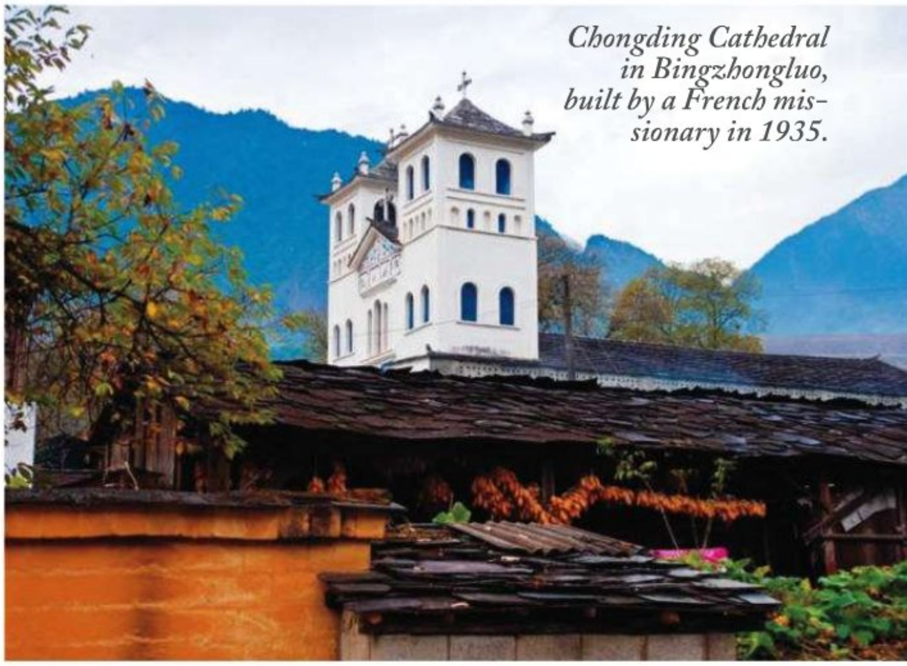
HEAVENLY DEPTHS

Text and photographs by Qiu Lei



Snaking through the Hengduan Mountains of China's southwestern province of Yunnan, a breathtaking gorge stretches more than 300 kilometers, averaging 2,000 meters in depth. It measures 3,500 meters at its deepest point, far deeper than the Grand Canyon, carved to a maximum depth of 1,830 meters by the Colorado River. This is the stunning Nujiang Canyon. With a secluded, mysterious atmosphere created by majestic mountains flanking torrential flows of water, the canyon has become a mecca for hikers and explorers.

This church, in Qiunatong Village, was reconstructed in Chinese style on the foundation of an old chapel erected 100 years ago. Born in 1871, Father Li Wenzeng relocated from Kangding County as a young man to serve the church and spent his life in the village, passing away at the age of 87 — the longest term of service for any missionary in Qiunatong.



Chongding Cathedral in Bingzhongluo, built by a French missionary in 1935.

Several years ago, a Yunnan friend recommended Nujiang Canyon to me. "You will see Gaoligong Mountain, famous for incredibly diverse vegetation, on your left side, and magnificent Biluo Snow Mountain on the right," he illustrated. "Beneath your feet the Nujiang River will roar, and when looking down, you might tremble with fear. Of course, if you're brave enough, you can follow the ancient Tea and Horse Caravan Road, but make sure you don't fall into the river from the narrow trail, which is less than one meter wide."

His words remained in my memory as clear as yesterday when I finally made an excursion to the canyon.

A church hidden on a steep mountain slope.

However, upon arriving I was surprised to discover a dense cluster of churches — a rarity in the rest of the country.

In contrast to the dark hue of residential houses in Nujiang River valley, the churches stand out with vibrant colors.

Christianity was already introduced to Nujiang Canyon in the late 19th century. Historically, the Lisu people inhabiting the Nujiang River valley followed primitive pagan religions, worshipping various gods and ancestors. In 1888, a French missionary constructed the first Catholic chapel in the area, and in 1913, British missionaries introduced Protestant Christianity to the Lushui and Bijiang river valleys. In the following years, missionaries from Switzerland, Germany, and the United States continuously streamed in, and by 1949 there were 213 Christian churches operating in the Nujiang area, claiming more than 20,000 followers, or about one-fourth of the local population. Many of the nearly 1,000 clergy serving the churches were Lisu.

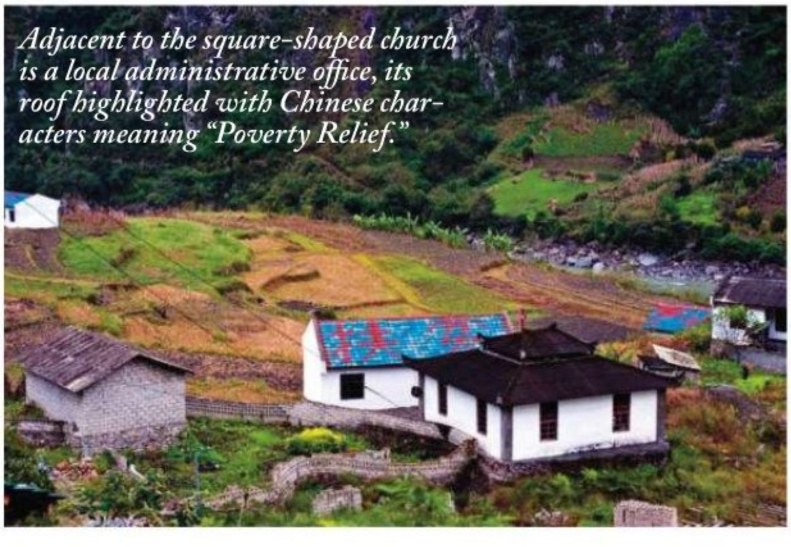
Over the past decades, thanks to the local government's implementation of the national policy for protecting freedom of religion, the church count has continuously risen, and currently, Fugong County alone features more than 3,000 churches, and a startling 70,000 of 90,000 county residents are Christian. The area's crime rate is reportedly almost zero.

Among the numerous churches, Chongding Cathedral in Bingzhongluo is probably the most famous. Builders labored on for 10 years straight until 1935, when the Hong Kong-style church and its towering symmetrical belfries were finally completed. Unfortunately, the original building was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution period, and the present structure was erected in 1996, in a scale far smaller than its predecessor.

It was drizzling when I visited the Chongding Cathedral. Since it wasn't Sunday, the door was locked, prompting me to shoot some photos of the farmland behind the church, which was reminiscent of European countryside.

In the Nujiang Canyon, a mountain site called Zhiziluo was once the governmental seat of the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture. After a geological disaster in 1986, the prefecture government was relocated to a more convenient position. Zhiziluo is now a desolate village, with a few residential houses sparsely scattered along a single narrow road. Here, the most notable remaining structure is a 100-square-meter building, which was originally a library, adjacent to a school. Today, both the library and school are empty.

At one end of Zhiziluo's only street is a white Christian church, decorated with script in the Roman alphabet, which, according to our local guide and driver, is writing



Adjacent to the square-shaped church is a local administrative office, its roof highlighted with Chinese characters meaning "Poverty Relief."

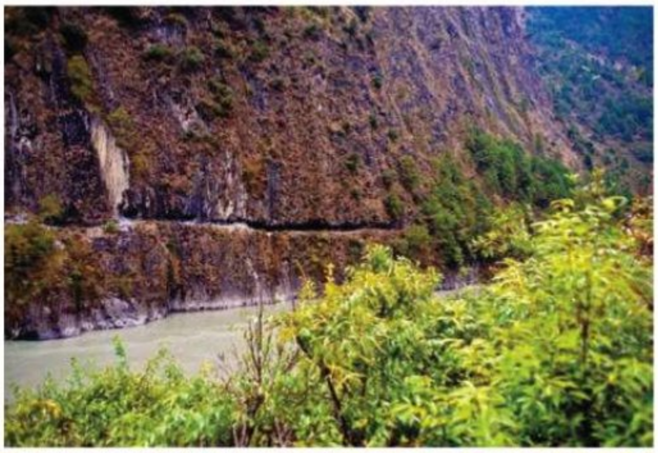
of the Lisu people.

I imagined that an ethnic minority traditionally devoted to primitive religions, like the Lisu, would adopt pictographic characters, but actually they lacked any writing until the Western missionaries arrived and engineered a method using the Roman alphabet. In addition to the 26 letters, 14 were inverted or reversed to account for every phonetic sound in the Lisu language. Along with spiritual peace and comfort brought by religion, it seems that the people on the banks of the Nujiang River have also enjoyed cultural development brought by the holy men.

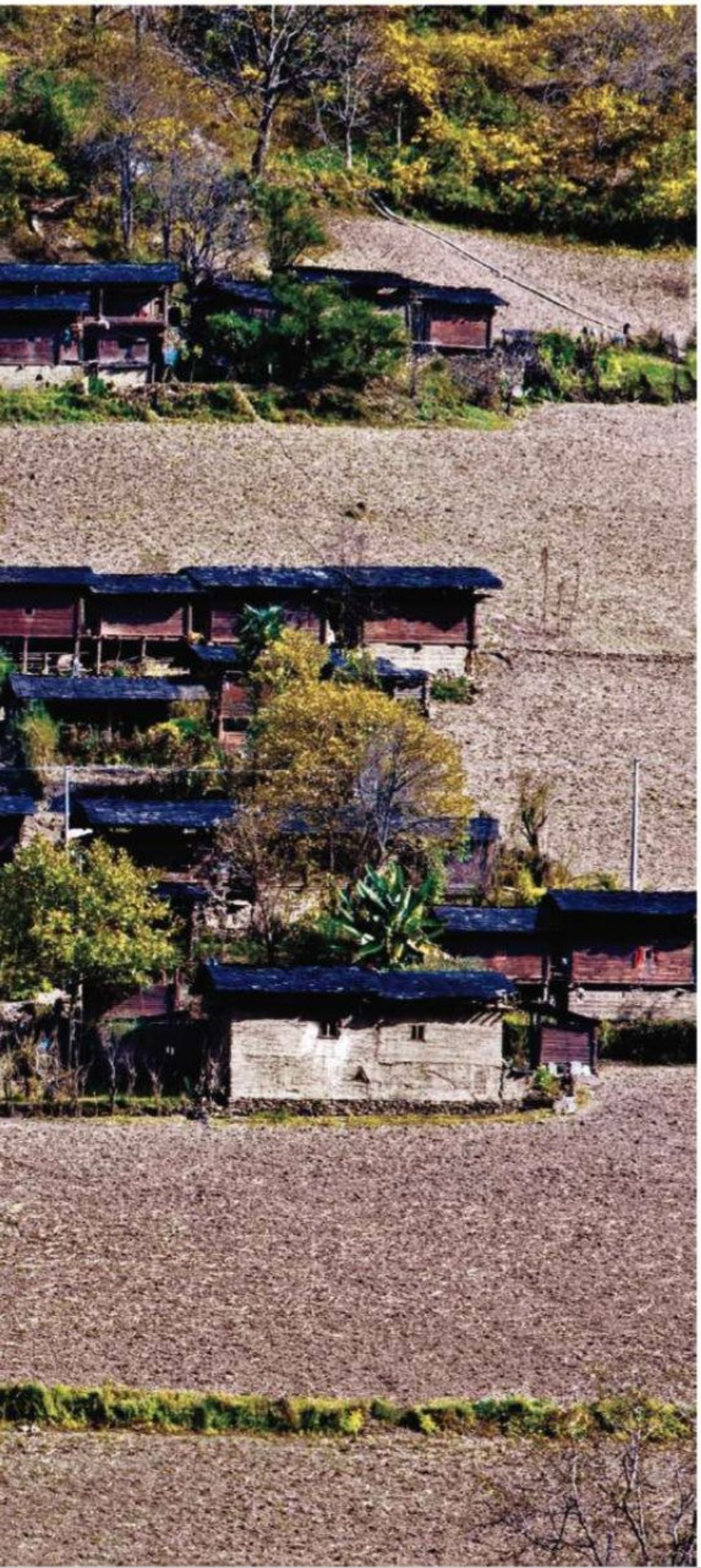
While touring in the canyon, I was impressed by a number of roadside slogans encouraging education, such as "It is illegal to deprive school-age children of formal education" and "Education leads away from poverty," and learned that many primary schools funded by Project Hope were established there. As our car weaved along the zigzagging mountain path, we encountered a group of boisterous students just out of school, and I asked our driver to slow down so that I could snap pictures of the children.

At that moment, I realized that any ethnic group, wherever it may call home — even hidden deep in a canyon — can always become a highly evolved society if it respects education.

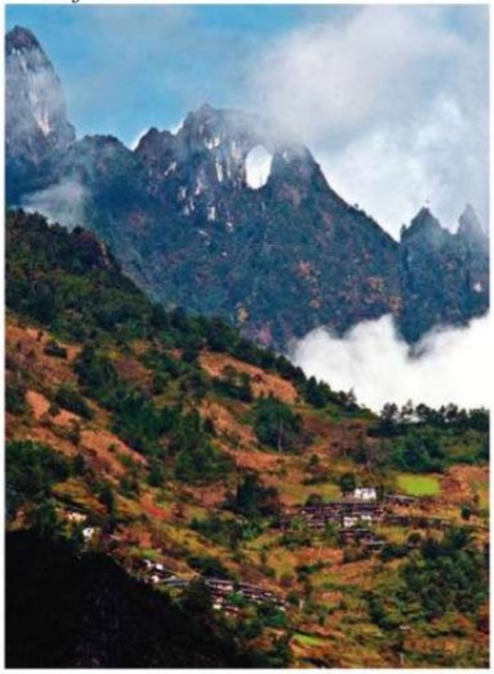
Wuli, home to only 21 households on the eastern bank of the Nujiang River, is the most beautiful village of Bingzhongluo in the eyes of many photographers.

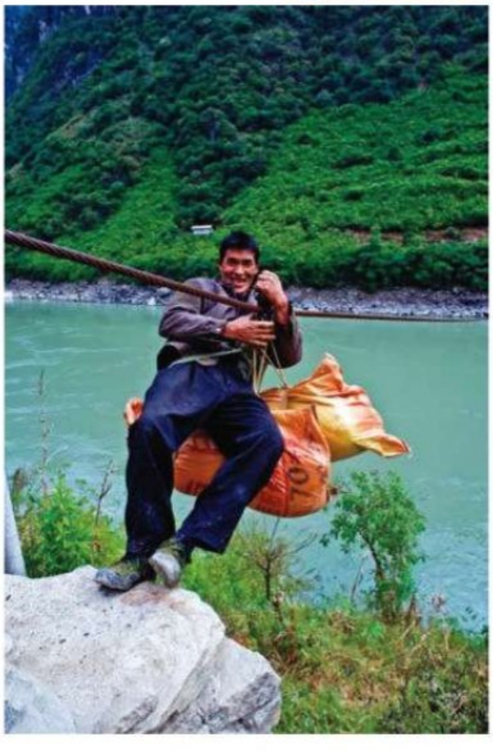


The ancient Tea and Horse Caravan Road, seemingly carved on crags, historically served as a strategic trading route linking Tibet, Sichuan, and Yunnan.



"Stone Moon," one of the most famous attractions of the Nujiang scenic area. Witnessing a clear view of the scene requires patience, since clouds and mist often mask the "moon."





A young man of the Lisu ethnic group crosses the river via a suspension cable.

THE MANCHURIAN CONDUIT

Text and photographs by Lin Dihuan

Tucked next to the borders of Russia and Mongolia in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region is a small, beautiful city isolated by the seemingly endless Hulun Buir Grassland. However, due to the fact that the Far East Railway runs through the town, it sees substantial flows of cargo and travelers, giving the place an unexpected bustle.

Grassland nearby Manzhouli.

A Fairytale Town

Many Chinese cities appear similar, lacking unique characteristics that set them apart from each other. However, Manzhouli is a notable exception – largely because its distinctive buildings were heavily influenced by Russian architecture.

Though smaller than countless other Chinese cities, the town is ranked as the nation's largest inland port and has been dubbed one of the ten most charming Chinese cities. From south to north, only six major avenues line the town, and it is not difficult to get around on foot.

The population of its urban area is less than 60,000, a level even lower than that of most ordinary counties in China.

However, the small city is brimming with exotic charm. Even many modern buildings, such as shopping malls, banks, hotels, and residences, feature Russian architectural elements, such as pointing spires and onion-shaped Byzantine domes. Against the clear, blue sky, the entire city resembles a sort of fairytale castle.

Along with its stunning architecture, Manzhouli is also known for an easygoing, colorful lifestyle that combines Han, Mongolian and Russian culture. Here, one can not only experience nomadic customs of northeastern China, but also taste exotic foods from Russia. Generally speaking, Manzhouli has become a tiny international hub. Locals claim that only decades ago, cattle and sheep could be seen wandering through town. But now, Russian cars roar down the streets, passing through on their way to inland China. In far eastern Russia, 90 percent of cars are right-hand drive due to influence from Japan, and in Manzhouli, to cater to such Russian drivers, many roads are designed to be one-way lanes.

The town's exotic ambience infuses Asian and European flavors. Strolling down its streets, one can hear pedestrians conversing in Russian, see cars with either Mongolian or Russian license plates, and meet Russian girls and Buryat young men leisurely roaming. The strong exotic charm injects romanticism, seemingly making it easier to fall in love. Classical piano music reverberates through the air, due to speakers at roadside shops, stirring up a desire for passersby to dance with it. In a town that blends East and West, tradition and modernity, such a world seems removed from reality and more like a figment of someone's imagination.

A Town on Railway

The history of Manzhouli began with the construction of a railway connecting Northeast China to Siberia. Over the past century, the town has endured many ups and downs along with its motherland.

The name Manzhouli came from Manchuria, a historical region referring to Northeast China during the Qing Dynasty. In April 1895, after the Qing court was defeated in the First Sino-Japanese War, it was forced to sign the *Treaty of Shimonoseki* with Japan. Taking a chance, Russia compelled the Qing court to allow the Trans-Siberian Railway to run through Northeast China. The next year, permission to build the Chinese Eastern Railway in northeastern China was granted in the *Sino-Russian Secret Treaty*.

In April 1900, the Chinese Eastern Railway began construction in today's Manzhouli area. By October 1901, the railway extended to Harbin. Russians named the railway's first Chinese stop Manchzhuriya, meaning "in the territory of Manchuria." Soon, a settlement formed around the Manchzhuriya Station. This was the beginning of the modern city of Manzhouli.

The Russian Empire regarded Manzhouli as an important passage to East Asia. In 1904, it formed an ambitious plan to expand Manzhouli, and many Russian prisoners were sent there to construct the town. Gradually, Manzhouli grew into a bustling inland port on formerly sparsely-populated grassland.

A tremendous amount of Russian cargo, including textiles and leather from Moscow, medicine, household utensils and candy from Saint Petersburg, fur from Nizhni Novgorod, rubber and tobacco from Riga, and kerosene from Baku, were transported to inland China via

Manzhouli. At the same time, China's exports to Russia included coal, timber, silk, tea, cattle, and fruit.

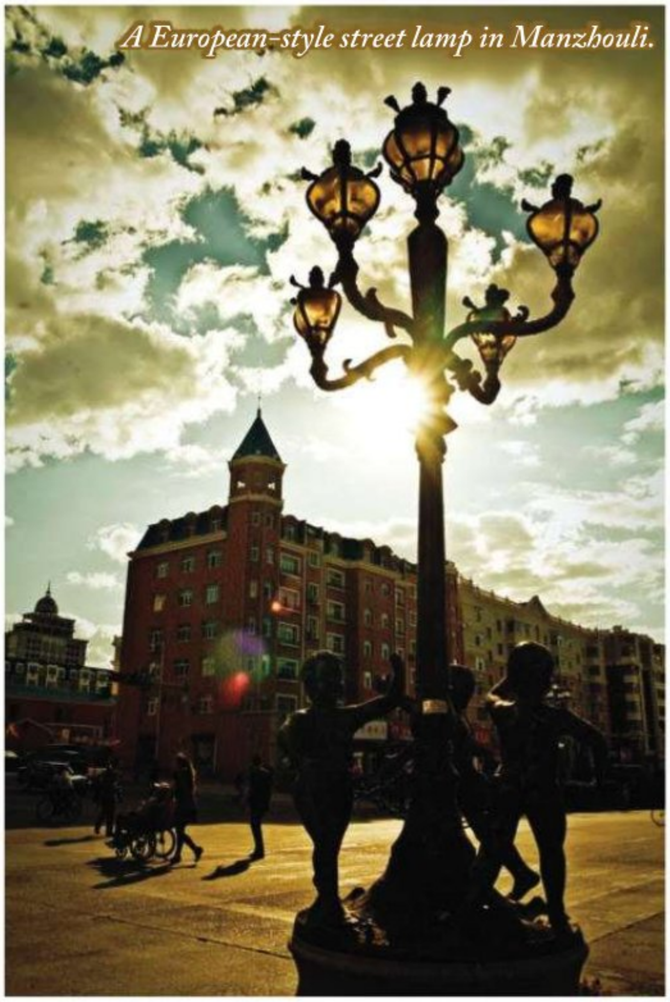
In 1904, the Russo-Japanese War broke out. After Japan's victory, they took control of Manzhouli. From that point, the city witnessed constant feuding between Russia and Japan for control of northeastern China, along with decades of rebellious campaigns of Chinese people seeking independence from foreign occupation, ending with the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. However, its position as an important hub along the world's first Eurasian Continental Bridge never changed. As the nation's largest inland port, Manzhouli is responsible for 60 percent of land transportation between China and Russia.

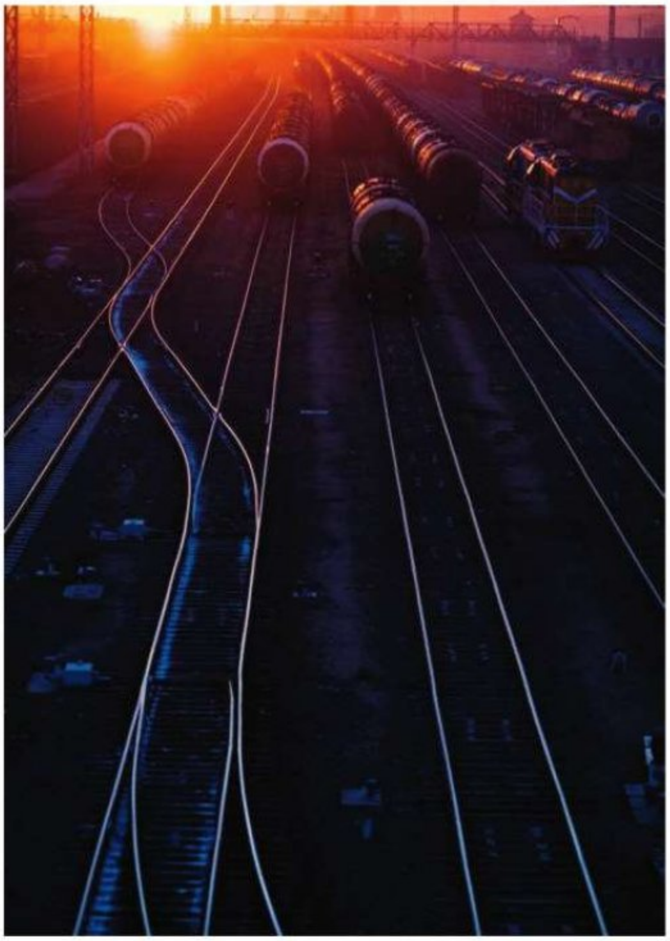
Like many exotic buildings in town, the Manzhouli Railway Station also embodies a dreamlike charm. Because track gauges differ between China and Russia, all cargo and passengers must change trains in Manzhouli before continuing to Siberia or further. For this reason, the Manzhouli Railway Station is busy around the clock.

A Town of Border Trade

At wholesale markets scattered around Manzhouli, Russian merchants and customers outnumber Chinese people. It is commonplace to see wholesalers from Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces haggle in fluent Russian.

Compared with China, Russia has a less developed light industry. So, a large quantity of China-made clothes, shoes and household appliances are exported to Russia through Manzhouli every day. Conversely, timber, paper pulp, chemical material, and oil are imported from Russia.

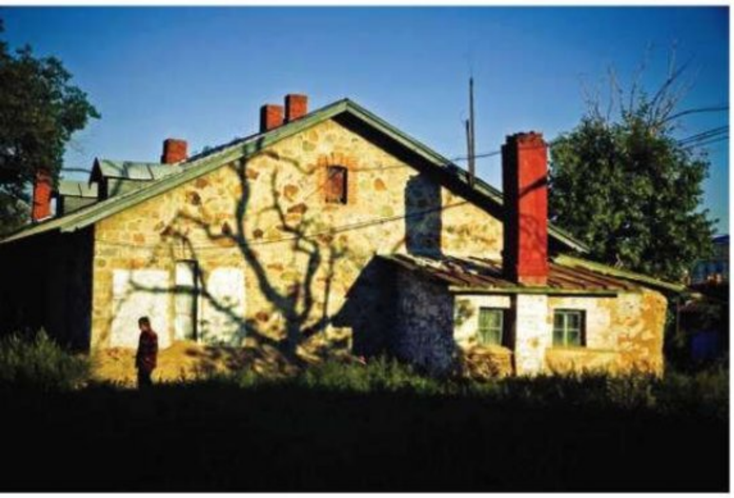

A European-style street lamp in Manzhouli.


At dusk, the railway is busy transporting goods between Russia and China.

In Manzhouli, Russians carrying big nylon or canvas packs can often be found in hotels, streets, markets, and shopping malls. They are dealers. Such a scene is common in Manzhouli's streets: Russian dealers labor to squeeze several huge packs of just-purchased goods into the trunk of their car, which seems an impossible feat.

The markets of the Sino-Russian Border Trade Zone are always bustling with Chinese businessmen and Russian dealers and customers, swapping every imaginable genre of commodity, including clothes, accessories, luggage, and toys. Sellers shout aloud in Russian to solicit business. Some vendors, who hold several leather belts or silk shirts on their arms, aggressively follow their target customers down the street, hoping to persuade them to buy. However, it seems that Russian dealers and buyers are accustomed to such a noisy environment. Occasionally, they will stop to haggle with vendors for something that catches the eye. Both Chinese and Russian currencies are accepted in the market.

Newcomers to Manzhouli may be astonished to see some Russians donning new clothes just after purchase, even without taking off the price tags. A local boutique owner reveals the truth: "Actually, they aren't tourists,



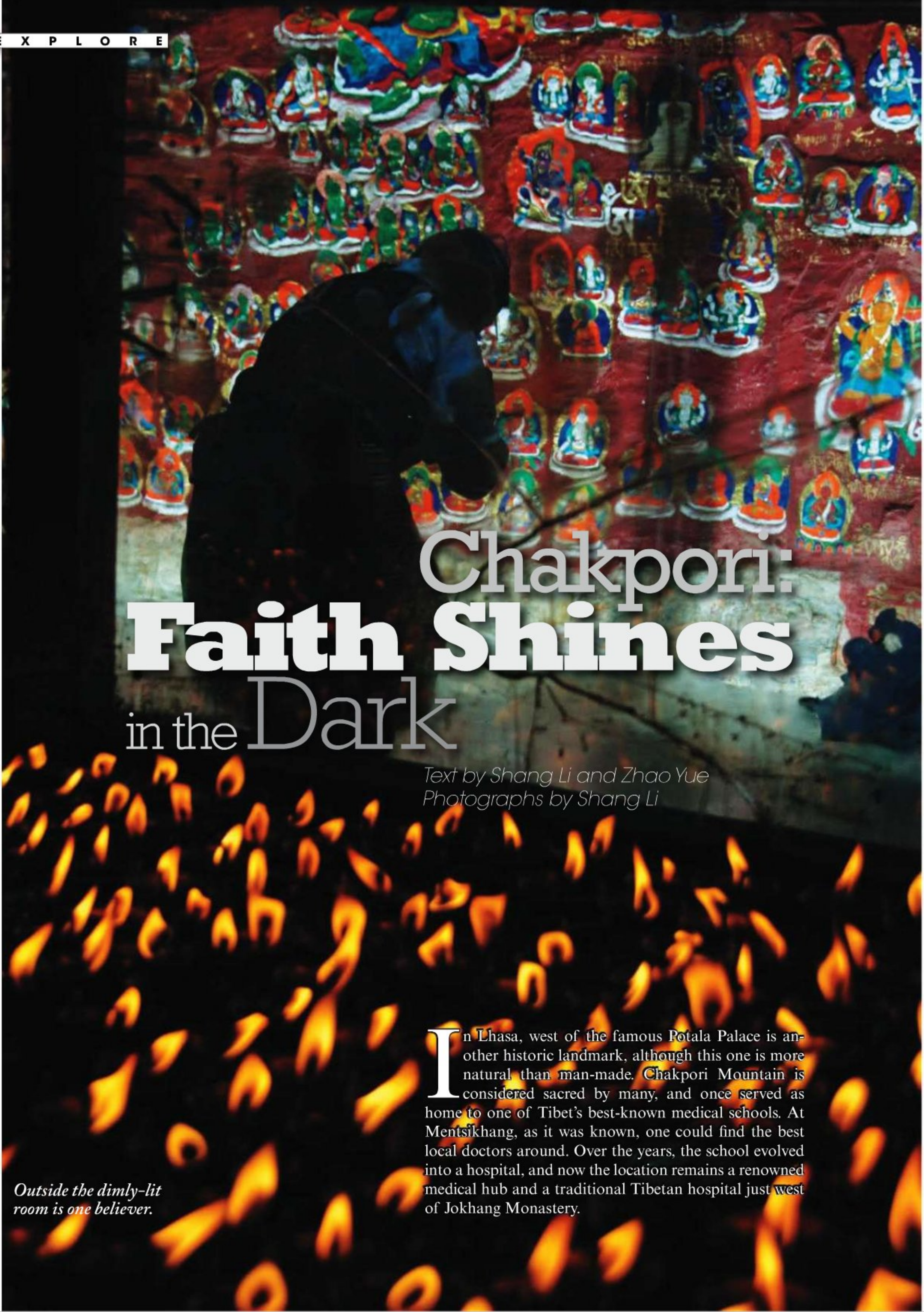
Nowadays, only a few old Russian-style houses remain in Manzhouli.

but peddlers. When entering China on travel visas, according to regulations of both Chinese and Russian customs, they're only allowed to take 50 kilograms of luggage when leaving. Also, they don't have to pay tariffs on clothes they wear. In order to take back more clothes, Russian peddlers wear as little as they can when entering China, but as much as they can when leaving. So, they can look strange, wearing little in winter and heavily bundled in summer."

A Russian mother hugs her son, who is mixed blood, at Beihu Square. As a matter of fact, transnational marriage is common in Manzhouli.

Early in the morning, a vendor sells fresh milk at the park commemorating Russian soldiers who died in battle against Japanese invaders in Northeast China during World War II.

The century-old Manzhouli Railway Station features a distinctive Russian style.



Chakpori: Faith Shines in the Dark

Text by Shang Li and Zhao Yue
Photographs by Shang Li

Outside the dimly-lit room is one believer.

In Lhasa, west of the famous Potala Palace is another historic landmark, although this one is more natural than man-made. Chakpori Mountain is considered sacred by many, and once served as home to one of Tibet's best-known medical schools. At Mentsikhang, as it was known, one could find the best local doctors around. Over the years, the school evolved into a hospital, and now the location remains a renowned medical hub and a traditional Tibetan hospital just west of Jokhang Monastery.

Locals recommend waking up early to scale Chakpori to get the best view of Potala Palace. Under the bright morning sun, the magnificent structure appears more terrestrial. Compared to other mountains, Chakpori offers an unparalleled fusion of faith, human achievement, and natural beauty. Monasteries, stone carvings, and pious worshippers are all common pieces of the wealth of scenery along the road leading to the mountain. Additionally, the mountain lies along one of Lhasa's most well-trodden paths of circumambulation (a religious activity of circling a sacred shrine). On the 15th day of the fourth month of each Tibetan calendar year, throngs of pilgrims congregate at the mountain to celebrate the Saga Dawa Festival.

Chalalupu Monastery

A well-preserved monastery on the eastern side of Chakpori is known as Chalalupa. Also called the Chalalupu Grottoes, the structure covers a compact area of only 27 square meters. A stone pillar at the entrance marks the start of a narrow lane used for circumambulation. The wall is decorated with 69 stone sculptures depicting figures such as King Songtsen Gampo and his wife, Princess Wencheng.

Songtsen Gampo (617-650) was the reigning king of Tibet when the tiny monastery was constructed over 1,300 years ago. After enduring unimaginable ups and downs over the centuries, the hardy monastery remains in good shape. According to historical records, one of Gampo's concubines contracted artists to carve Buddha statues on the cliffs of Chalalupu. For each pound of rock they chipped away, craftsmen would receive a pound of salt, a commodity in short supply at that time. The savvy move considerably enhanced the efficiency of the project compared with similar endeavors of the time.

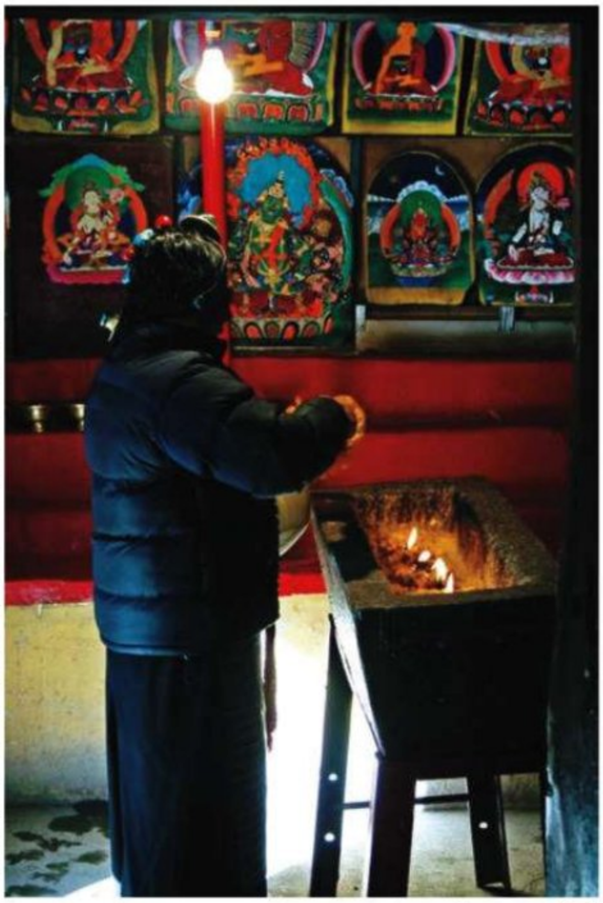
In years past, worshippers could be found at any time on any of the many circumambulation roads in Lhasa. Over its course of development, however, Lhasa changed considerably, and many such roads have disappeared. Only the road circling Chakpori remains unchanged, so its presence tends to move many Tibetan Buddhists and first-time visitors. Under the bright, high-altitude rays of sunshine, worshippers carefully and solemnly prostrate using their entire body. Even from afar, the sound of their kowtows can be heard echoing through the air.

Stone Carving

Chakpori's stone carvings have enjoyed a lengthy history, with the oldest traced back to the King Songtsen Gampo era. Over the centuries, stone sculptures have covered a length of nearly 1,000 meters. Combined with sutras and colorful Buddha statues gracing the cliffs, the whole mountain becomes quite spectacular.

The responsible craftsmen, whose painstaking efforts to illustrate their faith on the mountain, are worth noting. Most contemporary artists are able to make a living by carving, and many talented craftsmen from a wide radius relocate to the mountain once they are hired. A craftsman's daily routine normally involves inscribing sutras and Buddha images on flat slates. Most of their time is spent on the sutra *Kangyur*, an epic and perennial project. Additionally, they will take freelance projects from locals, most often involving inscribing other sutras used in praying for happiness or health.

One such craftsman is named Yugya. The perpetually grinning man moved to Lhasa ten years ago and has been employed as a stone engraver ever since. Now, his second daughter is three years old and often plays at the foot of Chakpori. Yugya spends most of his time engraving, making it an indispensable facet of his life. When speaking of his work, the man can hardly conceal his passion and devotion.



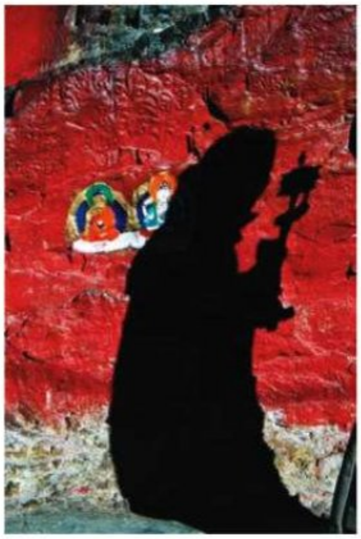
A prayer hall in the Chalalupu Monastery.

Still, engraving is a tedious process with monotony only broken by various noises. Those employed in the discipline, however, consider it a blessing to be able to make a living in such a position. For them, every shrill noise is easy on the ear.

Story of a Stupa

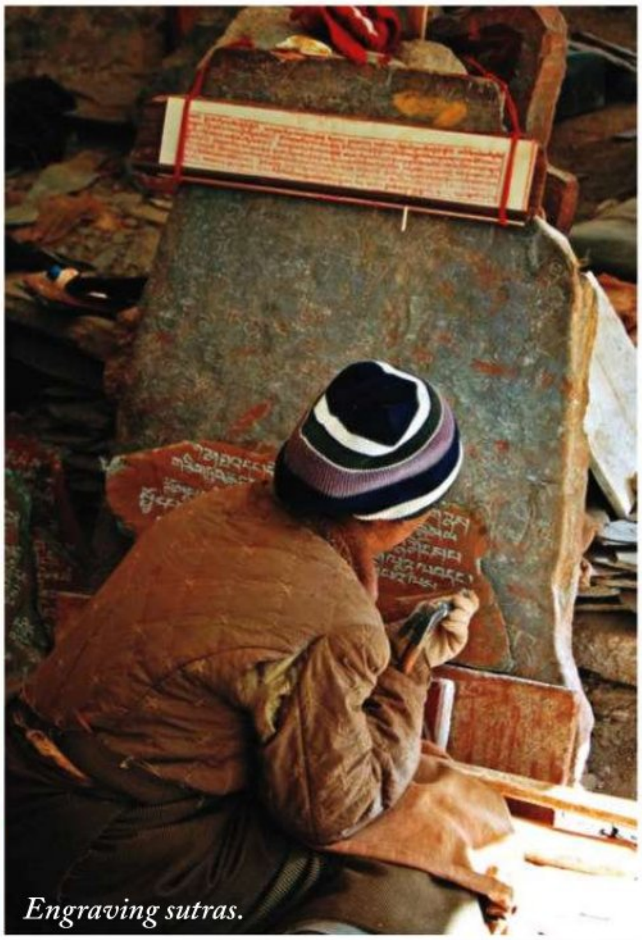
In Chakpori, tourists will find a slate stupa, a mound-like structure containing Buddhist relics. On each piece of slate is an inscription of *Kangyur*. Worshippers from near and far make pilgrimages to Lhasa to visit the stupa and find spiritual comfort. Daten Dawa, who constructed the stupa years ago, has devoted his life to his faith.

Years ago, when he was 40, Dawa set off for Lhasa from his hometown of Yushu in Qinghai Province. During the entire trip, he continuously made full-body prostrations. At the time, his daughter was 20 years old. Like many other pil-

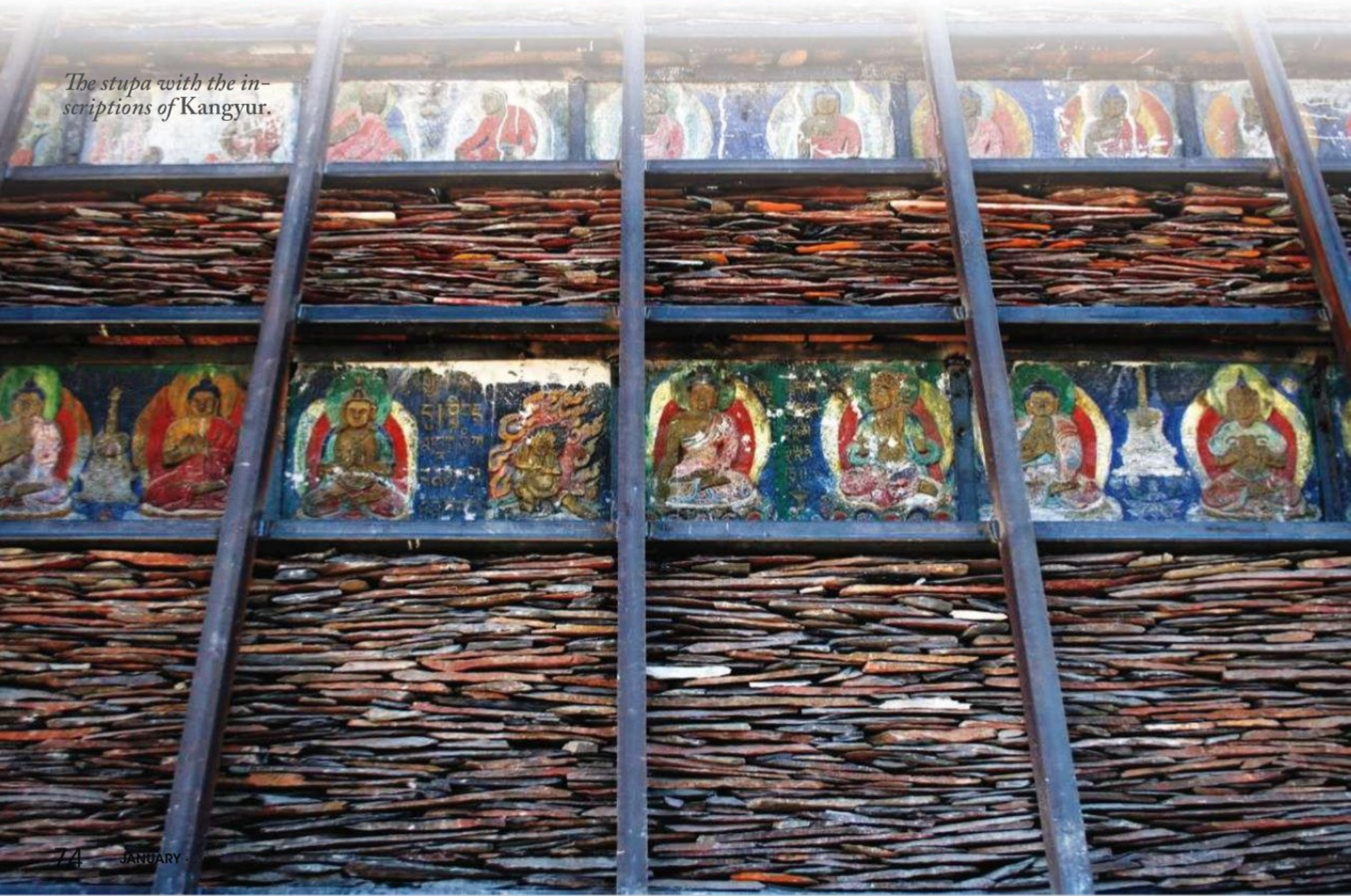


A pious Tibetan woman.

Slate with sutra inscriptions.



Engraving sutras.



The stupa with the inscriptions of Kangyur.

grims, he moved cautiously and counted his footsteps carefully. Every night before sleeping, he would use a stone to mark the ground to make sure he never missed a step or two. Along the way, Dawa's daughter became a mother, making him a new grandfather. Two years later, his entire family arrived in Lhasa. After visiting every monastery they could find, the group decided to stay permanently. "I didn't want to go anywhere else," he recalls. "I just wanted to stay in Lhasa and build a stupa for Chakpori." Dawa spent the next ten years raising funds for the stupa and building the structure. Over the years, even in the foulest weather, Dawa could always be found at the foot of Chakpori ready to welcome any who were willing to donate money to help his project become a reality. A decade later, the stupa, with every slate inscribed with sutra, was completed for all to enjoy.

Making Buddha statues.

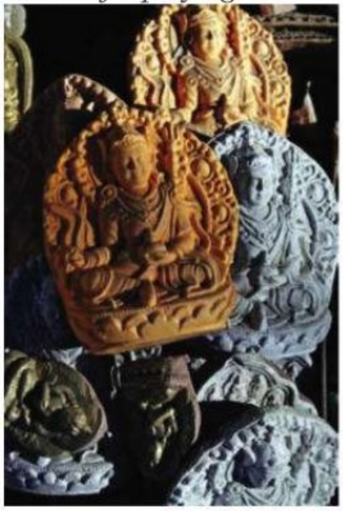
Tips:

Transportation: Chakpori faces the Potala Palace, and is only a short walk from the palace.

Tickets: Visiting Chakpori is free of charge.

Suggestions: Leave the high heels at home, because tourists will need to do some hiking to get to the top. Be wary of altitude sickness and avoid excessive exercise or walking during a visit. Chakpori is always packed with people in the morning, as many photographers like to shoot Potala Palace at dawn. Still, those desiring to witness or capture the most beautiful images are recommended to visit early in the day.

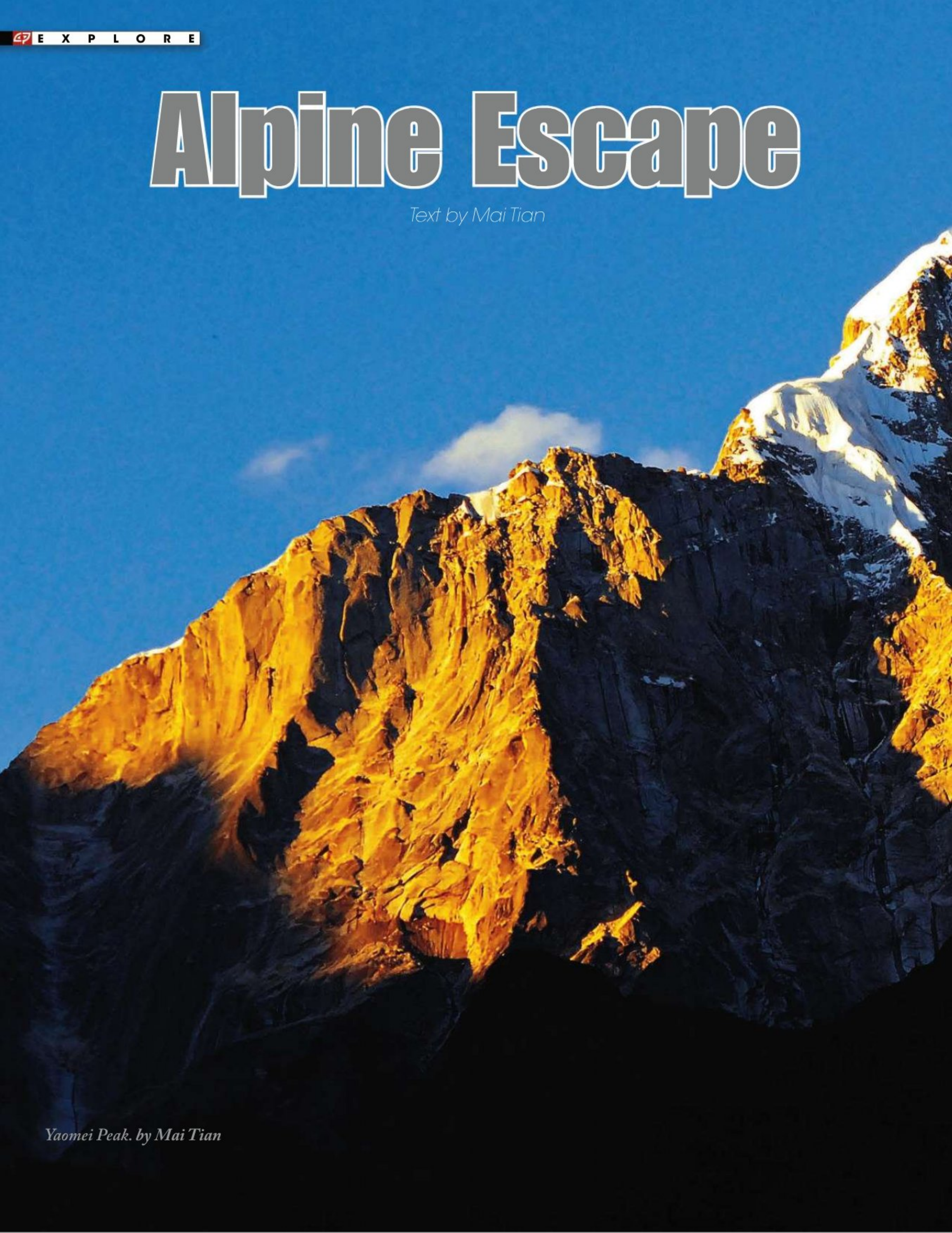
Clay Buddha statues are used for praying.



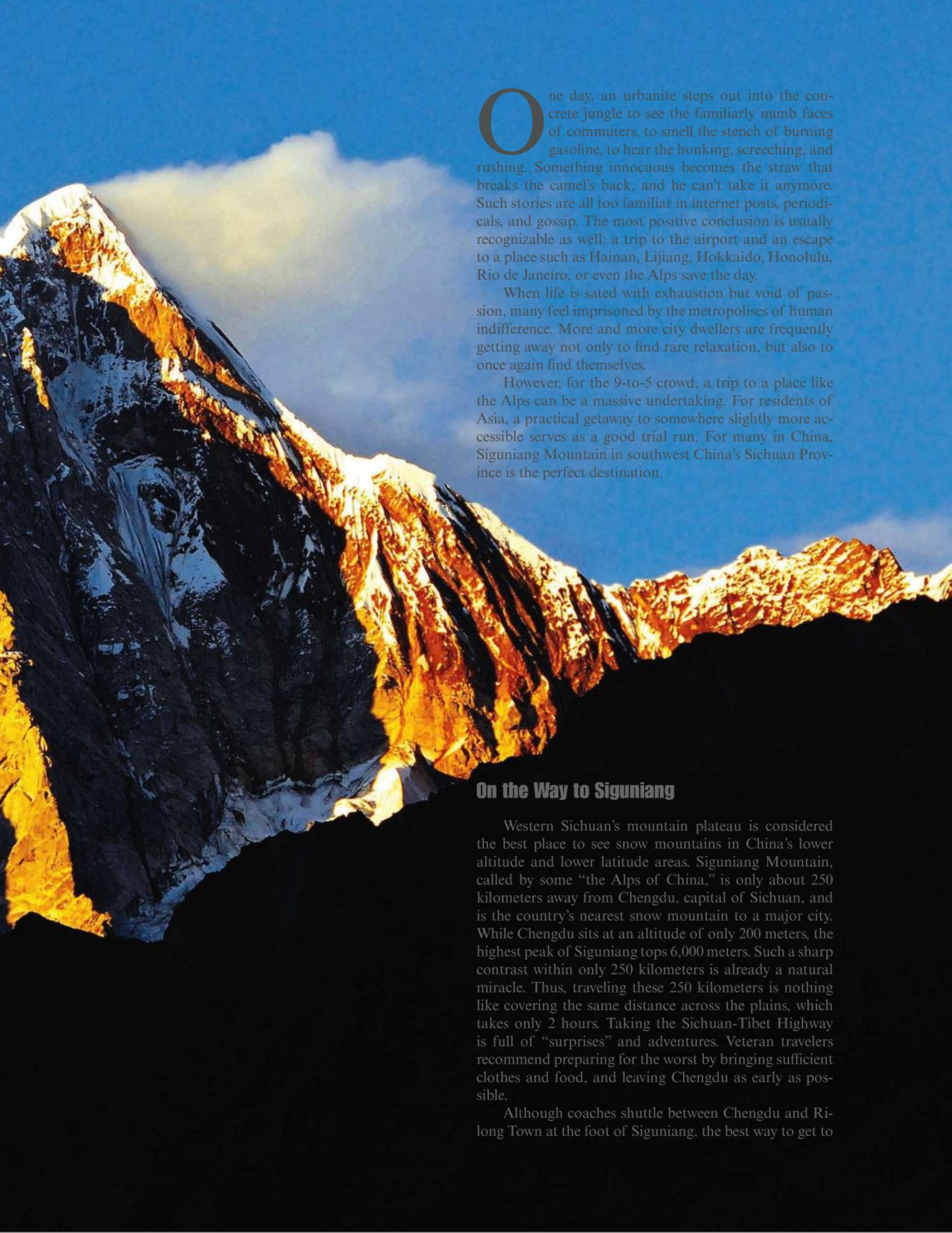
Clay Buddha statues.

Alpine Escape

Text by Mai Tian



Yaomei Peak. by Mai Tian



One day, an urbanite steps out into the concrete jungle to see the familiarly numb faces of commuters, to smell the stench of burning gasoline, to hear the honking, screeching, and rushing. Something innocuous becomes the straw that breaks the camel's back, and he can't take it anymore. Such stories are all too familiar in internet posts, periodicals, and gossip. The most positive conclusion is usually recognizable as well: a trip to the airport and an escape to a place such as Hainan, Lijiang, Hokkaido, Honolulu, Rio de Janeiro, or even the Alps save the day.

When life is sated with exhaustion but void of passion, many feel imprisoned by the metropolises of human indifference. More and more city dwellers are frequently getting away not only to find rare relaxation, but also to once again find themselves.

However, for the 9-to-5 crowd, a trip to a place like the Alps can be a massive undertaking. For residents of Asia, a practical getaway to somewhere slightly more accessible serves as a good trial run. For many in China, Siguniang Mountain in southwest China's Sichuan Province is the perfect destination.

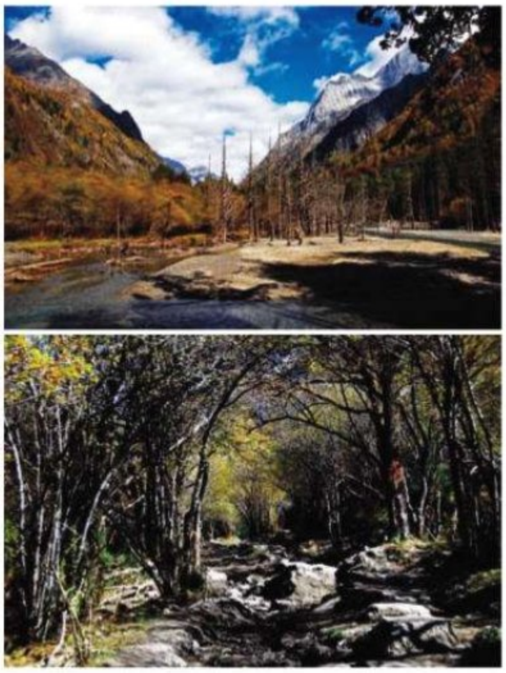
On the Way to Siguniang

Western Sichuan's mountain plateau is considered the best place to see snow mountains in China's lower altitude and lower latitude areas. Siguniang Mountain, called by some "the Alps of China," is only about 250 kilometers away from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, and is the country's nearest snow mountain to a major city. While Chengdu sits at an altitude of only 200 meters, the highest peak of Siguniang tops 6,000 meters. Such a sharp contrast within only 250 kilometers is already a natural miracle. Thus, traveling these 250 kilometers is nothing like covering the same distance across the plains, which takes only 2 hours. Taking the Sichuan-Tibet Highway is full of "surprises" and adventures. Veteran travelers recommend preparing for the worst by bringing sufficient clothes and food, and leaving Chengdu as early as possible.

Although coaches shuttle between Chengdu and Rilong Town at the foot of Siguniang, the best way to get to

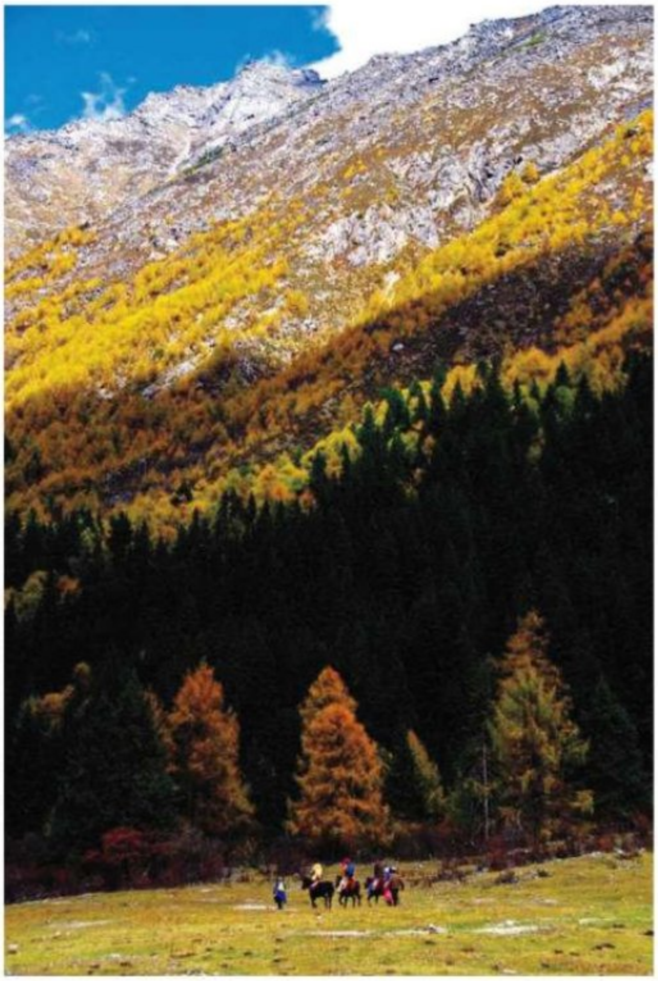
Siguniang from Chengdu is to rent a car or bus with other travelers. Chengdu, a long-time gateway to Tibet and western Sichuan, boasts well-developed chartered travel business, and the cost is lower than in China's coastal areas.

Road conditions in western Sichuan are generally less than ideal. After the massive Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008, many roads fell to pieces and re-construction remains ongoing. Rugged road conditions and taking the scenic route make the trip to Siguniang on the uncomfortable side. Some travelers start from Chengdu early in the morning, around 7:00 a.m., and don't arrive in Rilong Town until stars cover the sky.


Changping Gully. by Mai Tian

Changping Gully

Straddling the border between Xiaojin and Wenchuan counties in Sichuan's Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Siguniang Mountain is the tallest of the Qionglai Range. Siguniang, literally meaning "four maidens," consists of four peaks stretching across 3.5 kilometers. The members of the peak quartet sit at heights of 6,250 meters, 5,664 meters, 5,454 meters, and 5,355 meters, respectively. Snow capped year round, Yaomei (literally "youngest sister") Peak is the highest and most stunning of the four, so much so that when some mention Siguniang Mountain, they actually refer to Yaomei Peak.


Riding a horse is no easy task at high altitudes. by Mai Tian

When I arrived at Siguniang, I decided to enter Changping Gully on horseback. My guide and handler was Dolma, a 25-year-old Tibetan girl. Having 10 years' experience as guide at the gully, Dolma revealed that she used to solicit customers here every day. Now, the scenic spot has more structured management and all horse owners in Rilong Town interested in tourism are welcome to join. Because horses outnumber tourists, owners simply wait their turn without needing to aggressively tout for business. Dolma gets her turn every two to three days.

Of Siguniang's three most-visited gullies, Changping is the most primitive in terms of vegetation and the only one where horses are necessary to travel deep inside. Still, some more ambitious backpackers attempt traversing it by foot. Hikers in the region have blazed another much longer and adventurous hiking route from Siguniang Mountain to a maple-viewing spot called Miyaluo, more than 100 kilometers away in Lixian County.

However, riding a horse is not as easy as it appears. Even when atop the animal, it takes four to five hours for a round trip to Muluozi Meadow, the best place to view Siguniang, and even longer to Shuidaba Meadow. At an altitude of 3,000 meters, it becomes quite uncomfortable for those not used to riding. So, on the trip back, many choose to walk.

Surely, you will be rewarded for all your suffering. The trip into the Changping Gully features virgin forests, low-altitude glaciers, vast mountain meadows with the reverse of Siguniang as the background, and looming massive snow-capped mountains. Along the narrow riding trail is rich scenery, including rivers, valleys, forests, meadows, and glaciers.

To the east of Changping Gully is the roaring Minjiang River, and to its west is the impetuous Dadu River. Because of its mild climate and rich precipitation, in spring and summer, the gully bursts with color from blooming flowers and crystal streams while glacial ice remains encircling the mountainside — truly a natural miracle.

Mysterious Universe

Along with Changping, two other gullies are also worth visiting. Haizi Gully is considered the most beautiful. Local Tibetan residents claim that the lakes of the gully are diamonds from heaven. The gully also offers the best angle to see all the four sister peaks of Siguniang. However, to reach the best place, tourists must camp deep in the gully. Thus, outdoors experience, sufficient equipment, and an experienced local guide are highly recommended.

The other is Shuangqiao Gully, the most developed of the three. It's easily accessible by highway. Tourists can board a sight-seeing coach and view the scenic spots along the gully. However, Shuangqiao is also the only of the three that lacks good views of Siguniang. So, the prime reasons to recommend this picturesque gully are its convenience and sea buckthorns. The sea buckthorn fruit found just off the walking path is said to be the best in China. Tourists can see China's only sea buckthorn forest exceeding 10 meters in height, and the sour-sweet fruit leaves a deep impression.

Before leaving Changping Gully, I made a stop at a time-honored monastery undergoing renovation near the gully's end. A local Tibetan came out to chat with me. He lives in a nearby village and serves as the night watchman for the monastery. I asked to take a few pictures of him. He happily accepted, but seemed dissatisfied with his images on my camera after a few clicks. All of sudden, he rushed back to the monastery and soon reappeared clad in his Tibetan robe. He carefully posed and signaled that he was ready. His friend, a lama in the monastery, also came out with a shy smile and curiosity written across his face.

After the photo shoot, they became more relaxed for a conversation. The lama told me that due to climate, the top of Siguniang Mountain is covered by clouds and fog year round. Mysteriously, during May Day and National Day holidays, when the greatest numbers of tourists arrive, Siguniang Mountain never shows her "true face." As for me, lucky enough to see the mountain's "true face" long ago, I suddenly felt a new transcendence. Some can only appreciate the mystery of the universe when reminded by others.

Picturesque Shuangqiao Gully. by Mai Tian

Friends I made on the way. by Zi Xu

Cattle under the sun. by Zi Xu

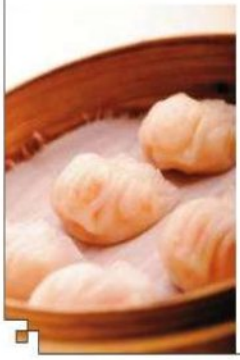
Alaskan Seafood Feast at Monsoon of Intercontinental Beijing Financial Street

Millions upon millions of wild Alaskan fish and shellfish are protected by one of the most stringent and sustainable fisheries management systems in the world. Since 1959, the state of Alaska has mandated a precautionary, scientific approach to fishing, setting firm harvest limits that prevent overfishing and preserve the pristine natural environment. Alaska seafood thrives in these pure, icy waters, developing unrivalled texture and superior flavour that consumers ask for by name. Please call (86 10)5852 5716 for detailed information.

11 Financial Street,
Xicheng, Beijing, China
100033
Tel: (86 10) 5852 5888
Fax: (86 10) 5852 5999
icbeijing@interconti.com www.intercontinental.com

Dim Sums All You Can Eat!

The award-winning Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun extends its warmest season's greetings and invites you to join in the Dim Sums festival in 2011. Authentic cantonese dim sum is served at Rouge Chinese Restaurant. With RMB 98+15% per person you can enjoy an unlimited selection for your lunch time. Recommended steamed prawn dumplings, steamd minced cuttle fish and prawn, baked Cappuccino tart, and much more to tantalize your taste buds. For reservations, please call (86 10)5993 8888.



Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun: Joseph Chan, Director of Food & Beverage

Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun has recently announced the appointment of Mr. Joseph Chan as Director of Food & Beverage in December, 2010. Mr. Chan has extensive hospitality experiences after more than 30 years of working at various locations in Asia & Europe.

Shangri-la's Kerry Center Hotel, Beijing Offers Chinese New Year Treats

Guests can usher in the Year of Rabbit with a line-up of festive goodies, especially prepared by Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel, Beijing.

Nian Gao, a traditional festive dish made of glutinous rice, is available in shapes such as fish, rabbit and golden coin. In addition, packed in cloth-lined cases, hampers, containing Nian Gao, premium wine, health delicacies and other festive goodies, make the perfect gift idea.

For heartfelt family reunions, Chinese Executive Chef Lo invites you to enjoy a range of set menus featuring Cantonese delicacies. Early Bird promotions are available for advance reservations.

For more information and reservations, please contact at (86 10) 8565 2188.

Shangri-la's Kerry Center Hotel, Beijing Starts Christmas Celebrations with Dandelion School Students

On 10 December 2010, key management team members of Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel, Beijing organised a party at Dandelion School to kick-off the Christmas season. Dandelion School is a charitable organisation for migrant workers, and is the first and only approved middle school established specifically for children from low-income families in Beijing that offers access to quality and affordable education for migrant children. The school's Christmas Choir performed, on Christmas Eve, at various locations within the hotel. In the spirit of Christmas and the gift of giving, a donation drive took place during the performance, with contributions directly going towards supporting the non-profit charity organisation.

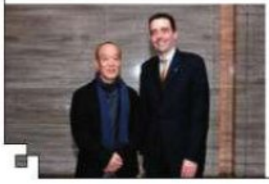
Lighting Ceremony Jianguo Hotel 2010

Jianguo Hotel Beijing, Nov.30th, 2010 – A fantastic lighting ceremony started the hotel's series Christmas celebrations.

The lighting ceremony located at the east of hotel lobby. With the Christmas tree lighting by General Manager Mr. Yuan-ming Deng and VIP guest Mr. Reichel Michael Matthias, all Christmas decorations were brightened. Little angles danced with melodies and everyone enjoyed seasonal delicacies including special hot drinks and Christmas baked cookies. Santa Claus appeared to carry gifts to the children, wishing them a merry festival.

Hilton Beijing Wangfujing Welcomed Much-celebrated Japanese Composer Joe Hisaishi

Beijing, China, November 30, 2010 – The award-winning Hilton Beijing Wangfujing is the favorite residence of world-renowned artists and celebrities as it welcomed the much-celebrated Japanese composer Joe Hisaishi who brought his best-known works to Beijing for an exclusive concert held recently at the National Center for the Performing Arts. Hisaishi conducted the National Center for the Performing Arts' Concert Hall Orchestra in a two-hour concert, giving live renditions of his symphonic pieces, including "Links" and "MKWAJU 1981-2009". The musician, who is particularly known for the scores he wrote for the Oscar-winning films "Spirited Away" and "Departures", led the orchestra while playing the piano.



For more information, please call:
(86 10) 5993 8888-2331

Cook with McCool: Italian Culinary Fiesta

From the beginning of 2011 and throughout the year, Matthew McCool will share cooking secrets with different themes every month. In these three-hour intimate sessions with the chef, you'll learn the tricks hidden up every chef's sleeves.

We hope to send you details of an Italian food session in January, "Aphrodisia's Favourites" in February, "Fabulous French" in March, etc.

For reservations, please call (86 10)6505 2266 ext. 36, or call the Restaurant Reservations Centre at 6505 5838.

Joyful Celebrations at Summer Palace

Celebrate the most splendid and eagerly anticipated of holidays with delectable Chinese New Year cakes and beautifully packaged hampers from China World Hotel, Beijing. You can choose from fish cakes, coconut milk cake, turnip cake, an assortment of dumplings stuffed with lotus, red bean or sesame pastes, or a dazzling selection of Chinese new year gift sets and spring festival hampers.

For your spring festival celebrations, choose from an inviting selection of set menus made-up of superbly crafted Huaiyang and Cantonese dishes at Summer Palace.

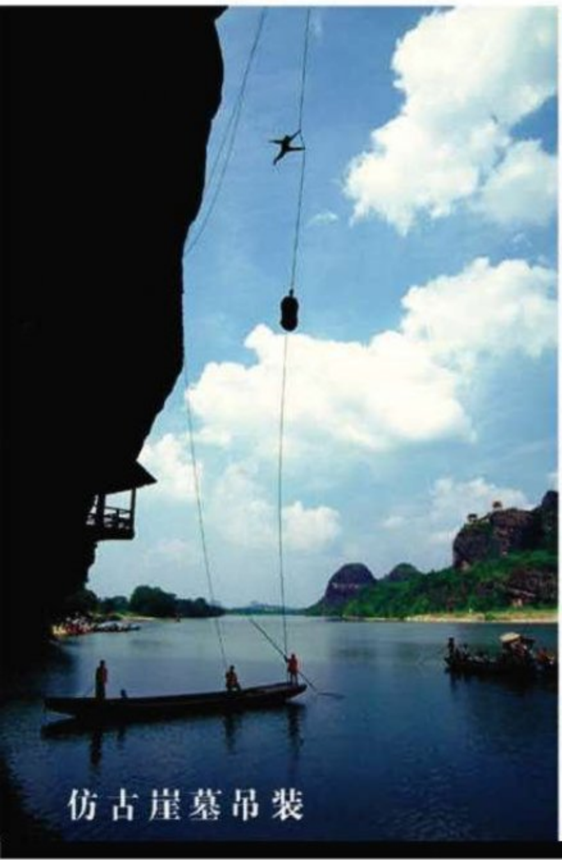
For reservations, please call (86 10) 6505 2266 ext. 34 or the Restaurant Reservations Centre at (86 10) 6505 5838.

在這里，讀懂千年中國！
—中国道都 世界自然遗产 江西龙虎山
http://www.longhushan.com.cn

仙水岩景色
The view of Xianshui Rock

There Exists A Millennium Place in China!

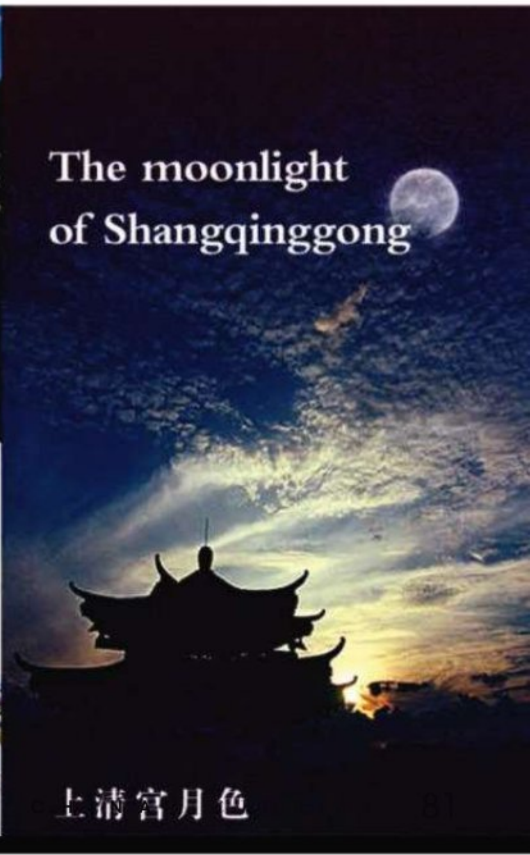
--the Taoist Holy Place in China the World Geopark Dragon and Tiger Mountain in Jiangxi



仿古崖墓吊装

Taoist Temple 山顶道观

The new tourist centre
新游客中心



The moonlight of Shangqinggong

上清宫月色

HAWTAI SANTA FE
华泰 圣达菲
Simple Life Easy Journey
阳/光/天/地 驰/骋/随/心

HAWTAI TERRACAN
华泰 特拉卡
Experience the Freedom
阳/光/天/地 驰/骋/随/心

NEW SANTA FE C9 1.8T / TERRACAN T9

华泰 圣达菲 c9
华泰 特拉卡

HAWTAI SANTA FE C9 1.8T

HAWTAI TERRACAN T9

华泰汽车
HAWTAI AUTOMOBILE

华泰汽车全心服务
Entire Heart Service

华泰汽车集团
地址:北京市朝阳区安定门外安苑里1号
邮编:100029
销售热线:010-64978666-670
www.hawtaiautomobile.com.cn

HAWTAI AUTOMOBILE GROUP
Address: No.1, Anyuanli, Andingmenwai, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China
Post Code: 100029
Sales: 0086-10-64978666-670
www.hawtaiautomobile.com.cn